MAINE FARMER

AGRICULTURE — MECHANIC ARTS — GENERAL INTELLIGENCE &c.

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OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN.

AMERICAN CONGRESS OF FRUIT GROWERS.

According to notice given, a Convention or Congress of persons interested in the culture and propagation of good fruits, assembled in New York during the exhibition of the National Institute.

There were individuals from eleven States, if we mistake not. Marshall P. Wilder, of Massachusetts, was chosen President; S. B. Parsons, P. Barry, and George W. Deacon, Secretaries.

The objects of the Convention, as we gather from the remarks of Col. Wilder, on taking the chair, were—

To compare fruits from various sources and localities, with a view of arriving at correct conclusions as to their merits, and to settle doubtful points respecting them.

To assist in determining synonyms, by which the *same* fruit is known in different parts of the country.

To compare opinions respecting the value of numerous varieties in cultivation, and to endeavor to abridge, by general consent, the long catalogue of indifferent and worthless sorts, at the present time propagated by nursery-men and fruit-growers.

To disseminate pomological information, and to maintain a cordial spirit of intercourse among horticulturists.

A special committee on fruits was chosen, whose duty it was to present a select list of fruits of general cultivation.

If by "general cultivation" was meant fruits that would grow and hold their peculiar characteristics and qualities all over the Union, they were chosen to accomplish an impossibility. This they soon found to be the case, and in their report they say:—"It may seem to many members of this body an easy task to designate fifty or even one hundred excellent fruits of any class, for general cultivation; but actual comparison of facts, and information on the subject possessed by the different members of this committee, has convinced them that it is extremely difficult to get an unanimous verdict in favor of even ten varieties of fruits of any one class."

They made out the following list of apples worthy of general cultivation, viz: Early Harvest, Large Yellow Bough, American Summer Pearmain, Gravenstein Summer Rose, Early Strawberry, Fall Pippin, Rhode Island Greening, Baldwin, Roxbury Russet.

For particular localities, they recommend the following apples, viz: Yellow Bell Flower, Swaar, Esopus Spitsenburg, and Newtown Pippin.

Now all the above are very good apples—but in their list for particular locations, they have mentioned one—the Newtown Pippin—which is very particular indeed in regard to its localities. While in some places it ranks as the best of all apples, in other places, not far distant, it hardly comes up to a second rate apple. Some think it requires a lime or calcareous soil, and some that it must be planted on highly manured, sandy loams. It has been cultivated somewhat in this (Kennebec) county, but does not as yet exhibit such superior excellence as it is said to in the vicinity of New York city.

The labors of this Convention will be productive of much good in the cause of fruit growing. By bringing the experienced culturists together from different sections of the Union, and by comparing the facts which they have obtained by their researches, a collection or embodiment of knowledge will be made that will serve as a guide to others, and many doubts and difficulties cleared up and explained.

Before separating, a standing committee, consisting of five from each State, was chosen, whose duty it shall be to collect all the information in their power on the fruits within their respective districts, and report the same to the next session of the Convention. Two only were chosen for this State, but they were authorized to fill up the vacancies. The two chosen, were Henry Little of Bangor, and S. L. Goodale of Saco.

They then passed the following resolutions, and adjourned.

Resolved, That this Convention be designated the American Congress of Fruit Growers, and that the members or substitutes and officers thereof, be regarded as holding their respective appointments for two sessions.

Resolved, That all Pomological, Horticultural, and Agricultural Associations of North America, be invited to send delegates to this Congress.

Resolved, That at the close of the present session of this Congress, it be adjourned to hold its second session in the city of New York, on the first Tuesday of October, 1849.

NATURE'S TEACHINGS.

The observing farmer is constantly receiving valuable instruction from nature. She rewards him for obedience to her laws—for his knowledge, skill and industry, and she admonishes him for his errors and neglect. A man may cheat his fellows—may overestimate the value of his knowledge and services, and obtain of them that to which he is not justly entitled. But he can drive no such *hard bargains* with nature. With her his services can pass for only what they are worth—he can put off upon her no worthless paper or counterfeit coin. Did you think to get an abundant crop, and withhold half the needed dressing, and half the care and labor of cultivation? You found your mistake at harvest; while your neighbor, who carefully performed his whole duty in these matters, is rejoicing in the fruitfulness of his fields and the success of his labor. Here, then, is a lesson for you; hard though it be, you have no reason to complain. If you are wise you will make use of the instruction you have received, and in the future, your better management will secure for you greater success.

Nature is neither unjust nor ungrateful. When she does not give you an ample return for your labor and dressing, it is often but to inform you that your management is wrong. Your want of success may usually be attributed to your want of knowledge. Where your land has been put in good condition, properly ploughed, pulverized and dressed, good, clean seed of a kind adapted to the soil, climate, situation and season, has been put in at the right time and in the best manner, and the proper care has been taken in the whole after culture and management, the God of nature has almost invariably vouchsafed to you an abundant harvest. And, judging from the past, a like return you may reasonably expect in the future as the reward of your labor and skill. But when from neglect or want of knowledge you have erred in any of these respects, the result has been otherwise, and if you have only seen your errors to avoid them hereafter you have profited by the lesson.

In agriculture, if we are at all observing, we cannot go far with a defective system or bad management without receiving timely admonition by diminished harvests. And when we return to the true system, or even approximate towards it, we are not long left in doubt.

In every exhausted field and meagre crop nature may be regarded as reproving us for our errors and mismanagement, while she speaks approvingly and encouragingly in every reclaimed field and remunerating harvest. She rewards us strictly according to our doings. She makes no allowance for ignorance or error. She is just and impartial. She requires nothing unreasonable of us, but she always insists upon our performing our whole duty towards her. She encourages the industrious and intelligent, and gives them a liberal reward.

The farmer whose skill and industry have secured an abundant harvest has reason for thankfulness and satisfaction. Thankfulness to God as the Author of Nature and the Giver of every good and perfect gift; and satisfaction as receiving the reward of his honest and well directed labors, and the approval of heaven on his course. R.

WONDERFUL CLOCK.

This wonder-working age is making great encroachments on old father Time's prerogatives. They have not only wonderfully curtailed the former tax which he used to impose on the traveller by holding back in his speed and not allowing him to travel more than five miles in a good hour, by harnessing what the Indian called the water spirit (steam) to the cars and rattling off to the tune of a mile in a minute, but (as our readers learned by a short paragraph in last week's number) they have even got to making the pendulum of a clock that swings in Philadelphia beat its seconds without loss of time in Cincinnati.

This was recently brought about by the two astronomers, Prof. Locke of Cincinnati, and Sears C. Walker of the same city. Their object is, by this simultaneous marking of time in two such distant locations, to obtain the true difference of longitude. The clock is connected with the telegraphic wires, and thereby the apparatus or register in the other city, ticks at the very moment it does in the place where it stands.

The advantage of such an arrangement will be obvious. Suppose an observer at Philadelphia observes the transit of a star—by a quick touch the time is transmitted to Cincinnati. The observer at Cincinnati registers the transit of the same star over the meridian at that place—both of these points of time and the intervening interval will be registered on one fillet of paper and by means of one and the same clock. That interval will be the difference of time that elapsed between the transit seen at the meridian of Philadelphia and that at Cincinnati, by which the difference of longitude may be easily and correctly calculated.

PEAT CHARCOAL.

The editor of the Genesee Farmer avails himself of a sketch given in the London Farmer's Magazine respecting the use of peat charcoal, to call attention to it in this country. It has been found to be an excellent thing to absorb the disagreeable odors arising from stables and privies, and by being mixed with such substances, renders them void of odors, and enables the farmer to cart them out to his fields or transport them to any distance without shocking the olfactories of every one that he passes.

It is late in the season now for the farmer to try the experiment, but perhaps he will remember it hereafter, and in the summer dig and prepare a quantity of peat and muck and convert it to charcoal for the purpose of using as above recommended. It would be cheaper for cities in many places to use it instead of chloride of lime for the purpose of purifying many of the drains and cesspools; and it would have this advantage—it would be readily sold, after it had been so used, to the farmers or gardeners in the vicinity, and be used for the purpose of reproducing products necessary for human sustenance.

Query about axletrees. A neighbor wishes some one who understands the business, to give a rule for making cart axletrees. One that can be understood by any body, and which, when practiced, will enable one to make an axle on which the wheels will run the easiest, and, of course, wear equally. The proposition will be something like this, viz: Given the size of the boxes and length of the hub, how shall we make the axle?

ST. MICHAEL PEARS.

We have received some excellent specimens of the old St. Michael Pears, sent us by Mr. John Copp, of Wakefield, N. H. This pear, in many localities, has failed, and been considered wholly worthless, but recently it seems to be recovering. Those raised by Mr. Copp are equal to those raised in the days of their former excellence. It would seem from this that the cause of its failure in so many instances must depend upon local circumstances. We take the liberty of publishing extracts from Mr. Copp's letter, although it was a private one. His example and his perseverance in fruit culture are worthy of imitation; and while we wish him success, we also would express a hope that many others may be induced to follow his example.

The specimens of the Seckel, also sent, were very fine.

Mr. Holmes—*Dear Sir:* I send you herewith half a dozen St. Michael and two Seckel pears. I have two trees only of the St. Michael and one limb of the Seckel in bearing. They are small, unthrifty looking trees, but have borne well. The fruit of the St. Michael has been fair excepting two years. A few of the pears on one tree this year were cracked and scrubby—once before they were affected in the same way. I noticed this year in particular that the blighted pears were on the unthrifty limbs: upon the branches that were healthy and vigorous the fruit was uniformly fair. This pear, as you well know, does not generally succeed in the vicinity of Boston and on the seaboard. Mr. Kenrick calls it an "outcast," "intolerable even to the sight." I did not, until within three or four years, propagate this variety in consequence of what was said of it in the horticultural publications. I have now some forty or fifty trees of this kind, two and three years from the bud, that I intend to take the best possible care of and see what they will do. My own opinion is that in this vicinity, (forty-two miles north of Portsmouth,) if budded on young and thrifty stocks, they will be as fair as ever. Had an opportunity occurred two weeks sooner I could have sent you some better specimens. I fear these will be too far gone to be good before you receive them, if they are not already. I have quite a number of pear trees growing, probably seven or eight thousand. Some hundreds of them are already budded and grafted—a few, perhaps one hundred, large enough to set out. I have more apple trees than pear. I meet with no serious difficulty in raising pear trees. They have thus far been remarkably thrifty, growing the first year after they are budded frequently six feet and sometimes more. One tree, grafted close to the ground in May, 1847, when about three-fourths of an inch in diameter, is now nine and a half high—has seventeen side limbs that will average two feet in length each.

I have sowed quite an extensive nursery this fall. Should nothing unforeseen occur, I think I shall have in a year or two a plenty of handsome, thrifty trees, and can supply demands should any be wanted. I have about forty kinds of the pear now growing, and from all the information within my reach, have endeavored to select those whose merits are unimpeachable. Only four or five kinds have as yet fruited. Among my pears are the Madeleine, Bloodgood, Rostiezer, Dearborn's Seedling, Andrews, Bartlett, Belle Lucrative or Fondante d' Automne, Dix, Fulton, Flemish Beauty, Golden Beurre of Bilboa, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Marie Louise, Paradise d' Automne, Urbaniste, Beurre d' Aremberg, Winter Nelis, Vicar of Winkfield, Lewis, and many others.

This raising pears in this cold region may be all moonshine. I am going to try it at all events. Some body shall have the benefit of my experience, or rather, perhaps, inexperience. I am but a tyro at this business, not wanting however in enthusiasm. Am an utter stranger to all cultivators of fruit except by their writings—am dependent entirely for my information upon my own experience, books and periodicals.

I do not send this with any view to publication, nor the pears for notice. I hardly think they are worthy of it. I send them because a good opportunity offered, and because it gratified me so to do. Should I meet with the success I expect, I hope I shall be able one of these years to send you something worthy of your notice. John Copp.

Wakefield, N. H., Nov. 8, '48.

CARROTS.

The past season we believe has been considered a very favorable one for the above crop in this vicinity; and many farmers have devoted more attention to it than usual in order to make up in part for the anticipated loss of the potato crop. Carrots are valuable for all kinds of stock, and particularly for horses; and they are fed to swine by some farmers. They are said, however, to impart their peculiar flavor to the flesh of animals which have been fattened on them; but this may be avoided by feeding them on meal or some other food for a week or two before they are slaughtered.

An intelligent farmer informs us that on passing his bin of carrots in the cellar the other day he noticed places among them which were covered with a white mould; and that the roots in such places were rotting. He says that his potatoes have never rotted so badly or so rapidly, and he has been obliged to feed them out to his stock in order to save them. We really hope this is but a solitary instance, and that this valuable root is not destined to follow the potato to the land of rottenness. R.

Very true indeed. Somebody says, when you see a man who curses when it rains, frets when a fog occurs, and smiles only when the sun shines, be sure that such a one can never bear up with fortitude against the attacks of misfortune, nor stand with equanimity the marvelous changes of our daily life.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Some of the committees that acted at the late Cattle Show of the Kennebec County Agricultural Society, are rather dilatory in handing in their reports. We hope that they will not delay much longer. It takes some time, after the reports are all in, for the trustees to collect the awards and draw their orders. The sooner this can be done, the sooner will the premiums be paid out, and the business of the year closed.

HINTS ON HEALTH—THE PORK ITCH.

In the county of Cuyahoga, this disease is known by the name of the Cuyahoga scratches. In the south part of this State, and further west, it is called the Wabash scratches. It resembles the common itch, except that the itching is frequently far more excessive, and is often accompanied with a burning, pricking sensation of the skin. This disease is incurable by medicine, and has baffled the efforts of the most skilful physicians, by whom it is generally treated as a species of tetter. An ointment of tar and lard is a useful palliative for this disease; on a person thus afflicted, if pork is again eaten freely. I was afflicted, with this disease at intervals for more than thirty years, before I discovered the cause of it, and the true remedy.

It is only a small portion of the community who are thus afflicted by eating pork; but the effect produced upon them is sufficient to show that pork, as an article of diet, is far less salubrious than the meat of any other full-grown animal ordinarily used for food; and that the prohibition of eating pork, which was prescribed by the great Jewish lawgiver, was founded on good policy, and doubtless was promulgated with a full knowledge of its injurious properties.

With this view of the matter, it will appear surprising that the good people of this western country consume such immense quantities of pork and at the same time sell off their sheep, or butcher them, and feed their carcasses to hogs, for the purpose of making pork. Mutton is surely the healthiest, and to most persons a very savory meat—and this mode of disposing of it, is literally throwing pearls before swine. Spectator.

Mahoning Co. O., 1848.

[Ohio Cultivator.

Education of the young for agricultural pursuits. Where an ardent thirst is begotten in the minds of youth, to become thoroughly prepared for an honorable and useful discharge of the active duties which make up the sum of a happy life, the great first step is taken towards the accomplishment of so glorious an end. We turn our attention to parents, the natural guardians of the young, possessing power to mould and fashion the tender mind, to lead and direct aright the early inclinations as they are first developed. To parents we appeal, assured that their influence will be exerted to lead the children under their care to contract an attachment to the employment in which they are engaged. Let the son be thoroughly instructed in every branch of labor to be performed upon a farm, and its management in general, and no doubt, with proper opportunities for instruction from suitable books and well-regulated schools, he will fall in love with the science, and delight in the practice of agriculture. In the successful prosecution of this highly honored and peaceful pursuit, female effort and influence are indispensable to lead to auspicious results. I am aware that some persons of near-sighted and contracted views, have expressed the opinion that the female mind ought to be occupied altogether in the contemplation of unreal things, of ideas that float in a feverish or excited imagination, and of outward accomplishments, and be content to dwell upon the surface of subjects, without an attempt to dig deep in the mine of knowledge. No one honored with the title of mother, can for a moment listen to any such suggestions; but will, I am sure, put forth their utmost exertion for the fullest expansion and enlargement of the intellectual and moral capabilities of their daughters as well as their sons. [Mr. Ives' Address before the Jefferson Co. (N. Y.) Ag. Society.

Early American grapes. It has for years been a desideratum for growers of grapes for the market to discover a native variety earlier than the Isabella, and as hardy as that variety, in order that our markets might be supplied with fruit in August and the early part of September, previous to the maturity of the Isabella and Catawba. Mr. Prince, of Flushing, has at length found one that will answer for this purpose. The vine is remarkably vigorous, the fruit in compact clusters, round, dark purple, and the size of the Catawba, and the vine literally covers itself with profuse clusters. It matures in August, is free from pulp, and of pleasant vinous flavor. Another American variety is destined to receive especial attention when it becomes better known, on account of the beauty and quality of its fruit. The berries are round, about the size of the Catawba, in compact clusters, of a pale red or pink color, and remarkably beautiful, ripening in September. This has received the name of the Guignard grape, on account of its being found or originated by a person of that name. This variety is also remarkably productive, and the fruit would command the highest price in the market. [Far. and Mech.

Large Horse-chestnut Trees. One tree in Lincoln, is 59 feet high, and the diameter of the head 100 feet. Another in Warwick, a hundred years after planting, was 70 feet high, diameter of foliage, 103 feet, diameter of the trunk at the ground, 7 feet. Two others, near Preebles, in Tweeddale, within 12 feet of each other, support one rounded mass of foliage 96 feet in diameter—their ages nearly 200 years. One near London, is about 100 feet high. One at Twizell, 18 years planted, was 58 feet high, and 15 inches in diameter. The supposed largest in America, is at Yonkers, N. Y., nearly 200 years old, 65 feet high.

MANURES.

Chemical preparations are acknowledged to be valuable assistants for increasing the amount of our crops; but, after all, farm-yard manure must be the main dependence for keeping up, or of increasing the fertility of our cultivated lands. The weight of dry dung voided is considerably less than that of dry food eaten; that is, the dry manure made from a ton of hay, after being eaten by an ox, will weigh less than a ton; but vegetable matter is more sensibly active as manure after it has passed through the body of the animal, than if applied to the land in an unmasticated state. In becoming anamalized, vegetable substances undergo certain changes, which render them particularly valuable for supplying our growing crops with the right kind of food, and in the right proportions. The lungs and skins of animals give off carbon, leaving the solid excrement richer in nitrogen and saline matters, on which depends the value of manures, weight for weight, than the crude vegetable. The quality of the dung depends on the quality of the food eaten; manure from cattle fed upon poor meadow hay, or rye straw, is generally inferior to that made from good English hay, and that is inferior to that derived from cattle which daily receive a good allowance of grain and oil cake. The free use of grain and oil cake in feeding cattle, is said to double the value of the dung.

The purpose for which the animal is fed has an influence. The full grown ox that is fed for the shambles, takes from its food much less of the phosphates than a cow in milk. A milch cow appropriates more of the food given than an animal which has not such a demand upon its system; so of young and growing cattle, they require a larger amount of the inorganic constituents of their food, for the purpose of building up the osseous frame work of the young and growing animal—the bones.

The manner in which the dung-heap is treated materially alters the value as a manure. If daily thrown out of the hovel windows, as is too frequently the case, and exposed to the snows and rains of the winter and spring, it must necessarily lose a considerable portion of its most easily soluble and valuable parts by drainage. Farmers that have not barn cellars, or sheds, for protecting their winter made manures, can, in many places, very easily construct a temporary shelter for their manure heaps, by setting up boards or slabs, in a sloping position, over their manure heaps, which would in a great measure prevent loss by drainage.

By a too rapid fermentation, manure frequently suffers a loss both in weight and value; the moisture, the liquid portion of the excretions, evaporates, and the volatile portions escape by the heat and rarification of the gases in the heap, and it is lost to the farmer. The vegetable matter—straw, litter, &c., becomes "fine fanged," light and mouldy, and of little value.

The urine of animals is a valuable part of the manure, as it is found to contain all the ingredients of the best dung—in a state of solution and in an available condition, to be immediately appropriated as the food of plants. The saving of this part of the manure is too much neglected and overlooked by a large portion of our farmers. In England expensive water-tight tanks or cisterns are built for the purpose of saving the urine and drainings from their dung heaps. The contents of the tanks are carried to their fields and distributed over their grass, and other crops, by the aid of water carts similar to those used for watering the streets in our cities.

In England, they have a more humid climate, and labor is cheaper than here; if tanks are found profitable there, and the application of liquid manure is an economical method of using it in that country, it might not prove so here. But there can be no question about the economy or profit of so littering or bedding our cattle in winter, with dried muck, sawdust, leaves from the woods, refuse hay, straw, plaster of paris, &c. &c., in sufficient quantity to absorb and retain the liquid part of the manures.

We shall have something further to say upon this subject in a future number, and will close this with some extracts from remarks, made by Mr. Colman, at the Saffron Walden Agricultural Society, England, as copied from an English Journal, the Essex Standard.

From the length of his remarks, we shall not be able to copy the whole, but shall content ourselves with some detached portions relating to the importance of manures.

"The Flemish have a proverb which involves the whole system of agriculture—'Without forage, no cattle; without cattle, no manure; without manure, no crop.' Now I take it on myself, in the first place, to say that you are deficient in the saving of manure, and in the second, that your crops are not near so large as they might be. I need not say that those gentlemen who have thought on the subject of liquid manures, affirm that it is of the greatest importance to the farmers of this kingdom; but on how few farms, compared with the whole number, is there any preparation made for the proper application of liquid manure! Here it is that the great waste is committed; and there is an immense draft made on your profits; for instead of sending out vessels to the far off Pacific to fetch guano to enrich your farms, you have within yourselves the means of enriching your land to an infinitely greater extent than it is now.

Then let me say that your crops are not so large as they ought to be. I know how incredulous the farmers are, and how hard to be convinced. Wesley said he could do anything with other people, but could do nothing with the farmers—[laughter]—but I do not despair that, with intelligent men, under the spirit of enquiry which is every where awake, they will come at last to be convinced by facts attested and confirmed by the most decisive experience.

And in the mean time do you go on saving all the manure you can, and bestowing it with the most liberal hand. Manure is, in fact, the life-blood, it is the foundation of farming. Allow me to say that one of the greatest things the English farmer could introduce would be by soiling his cattle. Do not leave a single animal to be without doors. You would be astonished at the effects on the beasts, and on the cows of the dairy. When I was in some parts of Germany, I found the cows seldom went out of the barn, and they produce better cheese and better butter than if they had been pastured; and then there is the advantage of manure, for then you can save all that can be produced."

[Boston Cultivator.

Driving oxen. Those having the care of these useful animals, should never drive them so fast as to cause them to *loll*. A certain writer, in remarking upon this subject, says:

"We sometimes see these animals moving so slow in the field and on the road, that we can scarcely tell which way they are going. This mode of driving is wrong—let them travel at least two miles an hour, and stop occasionally for breath. In this way we prevent their acquiring that slow pace with which the ox is so frequently reproached, and there is no difficulty, with proper management, in keeping him to this pace, of two miles per hour. The driver should never let his whip become too familiar with his team. If he suffers it to rest on his cattle's backs, it is very likely to lose its charm; and a parent might as well give his rod to his child to play with."

In Scotland the ox is trained to a quick movement. He is never overloaded while young, and it is said rarely falls short of three miles an hour, as a common "jog," either on the road or in the field. The slow, almost imperceptible progress of some teams while ploughing, or performing other agrestic operations, is oftentimes painful to behold. It impresses one with the idea of great fatigue, and can scarcely be dissociated, in the minds of the observer, from that of extreme exhaustion and pain. When young, the ox is nimble and sprightly, and as susceptible of speed as the horse. Yet, by wrong habits, he becomes heavy and sluggish in his movements, and finally acquires that slow, snail-like pace, which so greatly diminishes his value as a draught animal, for most purposes, and which renders the driving of him, wearisome and unpleasant in the extreme.

[Germantown Telegraph.

IMPROVED STOCKING FRAME.

Mr. Wm. Bamford, of Ipswich, Mass., has recently patented a valuable improvement in the Stocking Frame, consisting in the application and use of a conductor to each of the plain-stitch and rib-stitch needles, in such manner as to enable any one to carry on the process of knitting either plain or ribbed work, without the use of needles with beards or points, and a presser or pressers, such as are generally used in the common plain and ribbed, hand or power looms. His improvement is also applicable to what are denominated Warp Net Machines, whether automatic or moved by hand, and will perform one third more work than any hand frame worked in the ordinary way with pressers.—Mr. B. has expended a large amount in this invention, and performed the constant labor of nearly three years in bringing it to its present state of perfection.

The first application of the invention was in connection with a new Warp Frame and afterwards a common hand Plain Stocking Frame. The inventor then applied the "Rib" and succeeded in making ribbed work with the same motions that made plain work. This improvement, with a little expense, can be appended to every kind of stocking and warp frame now in use and save the *presser motion*, which has always been the most difficult and destructive one to every kind of frame.

This machine is capable of making one-third more *plain work*, and double the quantity of *ribbed* over one stocking frame that works with *pressers*. Mr. B.'s ribbed machine can be built at two-thirds the expense of the old *Derby rib* machine, which in fact is entirely superseded by this improvement, which saves two *presser* and one *heel paddle* motion in every *bout* or *course*, in which it must come into general use. [N. Y. Farmer.

To polish stoves. Cold weather is coming, and we housekeepers who pride ourselves upon being trim, have, in addition to our other duties, to polish and keep in polish, the stoves which have been put one side for a few months. I therefore send you a receipt for those of your fair readers who, like myself, have tried a little of every thing, been completely humbugged by patent blacking, warranted "to keep a stove bright as a coach body, by two applications a year." Make a weak alum-water and mix your "British lustre" with it, perhaps two teaspoonfuls to a gill of alum-water—let the stove be cold, brush it with the mixture; then take a dry brush and dry lustre and rub the stove till it is perfectly dry. Should any part become so dry before polishing as to look gray, moisten with the wet brush, and proceed as above. I sometimes take tolerably strong alum-water and go over the stove one morning, and polish it the next; and in twenty minutes can thus have a stove that would answer for a mirror. If the above save one person the vexation that black lead and vinegar, patent blacking, &c., have given me, I am satisfied.

Yours, &c., E.

[Prairie Farmer.]

A new machine to prevent cows from kicking. I am told that the Rev. Richard C. Stone of Sherburne has formed a piece of wood in the shape of the hind leg of the cow, and that it exactly fits the gambrel joint, which he straps and buckles very tight on the hind legs of his most excellent and highly valuable cow, which causes stiff legs, and wholly prevents her from kicking—in that way it is said that Mr. Stone can milk her with perfect safety and free from danger.

A Subscriber.

[Massachusetts Ploughman.]

The telegraphic wires are in good working order between Bangor and Belfast, and will be finished to Portland in a few days.

WIRE FENCES.

Messrs. Editors: I perceive from a late number of your paper that some enquiry is being elicited on the subject of *wire fence*. I will breifly state my plan for fencing. Mine is a compound of *sod*, *board* and *wire*. In the first place I plant my posts 16 feet apart; then some four feet from the ground I place a common fence board 16 feet in length; above this, leave a space of five inches and add another fence board; nine inches above this stretch a wire, passing it *around* every sixth post, and 12 or 15 inches above add in like manner another wire. This will give a hight of some 4 1-2 feet from the surface of the ground. Previous, however, to placing the wires, drive a good substantial stake, midway between each post, to which nail the centre of the boards. To tighten the wire, at each post, around which the wire passes, place a flat piece of hard wood, about half an inch thick, between the post and wire, then beteen this piece and the post drive a wedge of sufficiant size to strain the wire to its proper place, and thus proceed to tighten each wire. After this is done, having marked off your spaces at each post, drive a good wrought nail by the side of the wire at each post and bend it over the wire so as to hold it firmly to its place. Then for the embankments. If on unbroken prairie, it should be done either in the spring or fall by plowing two or three furrows on each side toward the fence, finishing by cutting a portion of them in pieces with an axe or spade, and with a common dung-fork place them, grass side upwards as high up as the bottom of your first board, or higher, being careful to make your embankment so sloping, especially on the inside of your fence, that the swinish herd will not think of working a passage thro'. This forms your fence. If you wish to make it more secure against hogs, you can set your stakes so high that the first wire can be fastened with a nail to each stake. Or the wire can be dropped a little nearer the board.

As to the size of the wire. No. 9 is generally used, and can be purchased at about $8,000 per hundred. No. 10 and 11 will answer, though smaller, and can be had for $8,50 per hundred. No. 9 will stretch full 18 feet per lb. No. 10 probably about 24, and No. 11 about 30 feet.

I would recommend that the wire be heated in all cases before using, as it adds greatly to its toughness; and I am credibly informed, (though I have not tried the experiment) that dipping in oil while hot, will prevent its rusting. The whole cost of fence on the foregoing plan need not exceed 40 cents per rod.

[Prairie Farmer.] T. Hudson.

FEEDING STOCK.

In the distribution of the winter's supply of fodder, the coarser and poorer kinds should be reserved till the coldest weather—the appetites of the animals being then sharpest, it will be eaten with least waste. Those farmers who are not already provided with cutting machines, will do well to procure them. Their use is attended with considerable economy. Coarse hay, straw, or corn-stalks, are, by being passed through a cutter, brought into a more convenient form for mastication, and substances are eaten which would otherwise be rejected, or only partially consumed. Cutting affords an opportunity for mixing fodder of inferior quality with that which is more palatable, thus inducing the stock to eat that which would not be eaten if given by itself. Cutting also affords the most convenient means of mixing meal, shorts or bran with fodder, by which the double advantage is gained of consuming articles which would otherwise be more or less wasted, and of so diffusing the meal that its nutriment is thoroughly extracted by the animal. The feeding of laboring animals on cut food allows them more time to rest—the cutting performing, in a great degree, the work of chewing and preparation for digestion. But it should not be attempted to feed stock with substances which are chiefly destitute of nutriment. The large sour butts of corn stalks are little else than woody fibre, and can be of little or no use in supporting animal life. Where a cutter is worked by horse-power, it may be an object to cut such articles on account of the convenience of working them into manure.

Attention should be given to keeping all animals, as much as possible, in a condition congenial to their habits. Their comfort should be consulted in regard to both food and shelter. Undue exposure to cold, not only requires a greater amount of food to sustain the system, but it prevents the natural secretions, and actually wastes the bodily tissues. The most proper temperature is that which would be naturally sought by the animal. Sheep may be allowed to take shelter or not, at their option, and this liberty may be given to all stock, which it is not necessary to fasten in stables a portion of the time. Close quarters are probably preferable for animals which it is designed to fatten, in order to prevent the loss of their flesh by muscular exercise.

[Albany Cultivator.

To measure hay in the mow or stack. More than twenty years since I copied the following method of measuring hay from some publication, and having verified its general accuracy, I have both bought and sold by it, and believe it may be useful to many farmers, where the means of weighing are not at hand.

Multiply the length, breadth and height into each other, and, if the hay is somewhat settled, ten solid yards will make a ton. Clover will take from 10 to 12 yds. for a ton.

[Albany Cultivator.

Poudrette Companies in France. It is stated that there are twenty-two companies in France busily engaged in converting the refuse of towns into inodorous poudrette. The disinfectant generally employed, is said to be the chloride of iron.

Big Pig. Mr. Henry Torsey, of Winthrop, on the 20th ult. slaughtered a pig, six months and twenty-five days old, that weighed, finely dressed, three hundred and two pounds.

The Maine Farmer; A Family Newspaper, Devoted to Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, Literature, General Intelligence, &c. &c.

AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1848.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamship Britannia arrived at Boston on Wednesday of last week. We have room only for the following condensed summary of the news.

In England greater confidence begins to prevail among the mercantile community.

The Cotton market remained steady, and for a day or two previous to the departure of the Britannia, somewhat buoyant, with rather an upward tendency in prices.

The Grain markets are reported dull, with a declining tendency in prices. The business in manufactured goods had improved.

Money was abundant and the rates of discount low. The cholera seems not to be on the increase in England.

Irish affairs remain in *statu quo*:—State trials, secret murders, and great physical suffering in certain districts, being the staple of the news.

The total number of cases of Cholera in England already reported from its first appearance has now reached 1039, of which 533 have proved fatal, and 331 were still under treatment.

In France the great crisis, the election of a President, is gradually approaching. Gen. Cavaignac and Louis Napoleon are the only candidates for the presidency who are thought to stand any chance of being elected. The prevailing opinion seems to be that Louis will be the successful candidate though Cavaignac's prospects were said to be improving.

Vienna was in a state of confusion and alarm. Martial law prevailed; the leaders in the revolution were being arrested, imprisoned, secretly tried and secretly shot.

The king of Prussia, encouraged by the success of the Emperor of Austria, had come to an open rupture with the Assembly at Berlin, and had broken up their meetings by an armed force which had entered Berlin. Martial law had been proclaimed, and a collision between the troops and citizens was to be expected at any time. In Gallicia and Hungary the people are in a state of insurrection, and hard fighting is likely to ensue, as the Imperial troops were marching towards those countries.

In the North of Italy, the Austrians had beaten the Lombards; but the Venetians had gained some petty successes. There are symptoms of a new outbreak in the centre of Italy. The latest accounts from Rome speak of a revolt of the Pontifical troops. Some differences had arisen between the French Government and the Bey of Tunis.

CHOLERA IN NEW YORK!

Such has been the startling caption to articles in most of our exchanges for a few days back. We are happy to learn that the caption, more than articles themselves, indicates the existence of the Cholera in that city. The case is summed up in the Traveller as follows:—"The facts in regard to the sudden introduction of a disease resembling the Cholera, into New York, appear to be these: The ship New York, from Havre, with 345 passengers, arrived at quarantine on the 2d inst. About a week before her arrival, when she was off the coast Nova Scotia, a number of cases of disease occurred, commencing and terminating suddenly. Up to the time of her arrival, there had been 17 cases, of which 7 were fatal. Since her arrival, there have been 19 new cases and 10 deaths—making in all 36 cases and 17 deaths. This statement embraces the official report of Wednesday the 6th.

The disease has been confined to the steerage passengers—neither the cabin passengers nor the crew having in any instance been attacked. The Commercial Advertiser states that "the New York was a clean vessel, from a clean port; her passengers were a fine, healthy class of people, lacking neither food nor clothing, and the disease did not appear until two-thirds of the voyage were performed."

The Health Officer of New York states that this disease resembles the Asiatic Cholera; but it is not certain that is the cholera. The Commercial Advertiser remarks that "several of those who have died, exhibit a yellowness of the skin, which certainly does not indicate the presence of cholera, as all the authorities agree in saying. We believe also that no case of Asiatic Cholera has been known on this continent, from Canada to New Orleans, after the appearance of frost, showing that it obeys the same rule as all other epidemics, at least upon this continent."

CONGRESS.

Both Houses assembled on Monday the 4th inst. In the Senate, Mr. Douglass gave notice of bills for territorial governments in Nebraska, Minesota, New Mexico and California. Mr. Cameron gave notice of a bill for taking the new census. In the House, nothing of interest transpired.

On Tuesday, the 5th the President's message was read in the Senate, and 10,000 extra copies ordered for the use of that body. In the House, Mr. Goggin gave notice of a bill to establish uniform rates of postage; Mr. Greeley of a bill to prevent speculations in the public lands, and to encourage their occupation by actual settlers. On motion, 15,000 extra copies of the message were ordered for that body.

On Wednesday, the 6th, in the Senate, reports from heads of departments were received. In the House, Rev. Mr. Gurley was elected chaplain on the part of that branch. A message was received from the President, relative to the Oregon bill of last session.

On Thursday, the 7th, in both Houses the death of the Hon. Dixon H. Lewis, Senator from Alabama, was announced, eulogies pronounced, the usual badge of mourning ordered, and then both branches adjourned over till Monday.

AN AGED TEAM. The ceremony connected with the breaking ground on the Buckfied Branch Railroad, says the Oxford Democrat, on the 31st ult., was very interesting. Salutes were fired, a procession formed and speeches made. Elder Nathaniel Chase, a revolutionary soldier, aged 87, made an interesting prayer and address; Jonathan Records, another veteran, aged 99, struck the first spade; and Josiah Parris, Esq., aged 80, wheeled off the first load.

FIRE IN WATERVILLE. We learn by the Eastern Mail that, on Tuesday night of last week, the store occupied by Benjamin P. Manley, in Waterville, and owned by Nathaniel Gilman of New York, was consumed by fire, together with most of its contents. No insurance. Mr. M's loss is about two thousand dollars. He is of the opinion that the burning of his store was the work of an incendiary, and offers a reward of two hundred dollars for the apprehension of the individual who committed the act.

THE ELECTORS of Maine assembled at the capitol in this town on Tuesday of last week, and organized by the choice of Hugh J. Anderson as President, and John G. Sawyer as Secretary. On Wednesday they gave in their votes for Cass and Butler, and appointed Capt. Charles N. Bodfish, of Gardiner, as messenger to Washington.

SUDDEN DEATH. We learn from the Chelsea Pioneer that Mr. Seth Taylor, of Lyman, Me., who was on a visit to his son in that town, died very suddenly on Wednesday of last week. He dropped down, and expired without an exclamation or a struggle. He was about seventy-one years of age.

OFF THE TRACK. An engine, tender and baggage car run off the track near Lewiston on Friday last. No person injured. The engine damaged slightly. The accident was caused by the unfinished state of the switch.

THE MESSAGE. We publish the President's annual Message entire, as has been our practice heretofore. Its extreme length renders the state of our columns somewhat "crowded." Of course the usual variety of news, &c., gets the "go-by."

NEW CONGRESS. Thus far the elections have resulted in the choice of 71 Whigs and 53 Democrats. These take the place of 63 Whigs and 61 Democrats.

FIRE IN HALLOWELL. We learn by the Gazette that the store occupied by Capt. Andrew Brown, and owned by the railroad company, was consumed by fire on the night of the 2d inst., together with goods valued at some three thousand dollars. No insurance.

STAGES TO LEWISTON. Stages now run from this place to Lewiston and back twice a day. One leaves here early in the morning, and the other about 11 o'clock A. M. They are doing a very good business we learn.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate
and of the House of Representatives:

Under the benignant Providence of Almighty God, the representatives of the States and of the people are again brought together to deliberate for the public good. The gratitude of the nation to the Sovereign Arbiter of all human events, should be commensurate with the boundless blessings which we enjoy.

Peace, plenty and contentment reign throughout our borders, and our beloved country presents a sublime moral spectacle to the world.

The troubled and unsettled condition of some of the principal European powers has had a necessary tendency to check and embarrass trade, and to depress prices throughout all commercial nations; but notwithstanding these causes, the United States, with their abundant products, have felt their effects less severely than any other country, and all our great interests are still prosperous and successful.

In reviewing the great events of the past year, and contrasting the agitated and disturbed state of other countries with our own tranquil and happy condition, we may congratulate ourselves that we are the most favored people on the face of the earth. While the people of other countries are struggling to establish free institutions under which man may govern himself, we are in the actual enjoyment of them—a rich inheritance from our fathers. While enlightened nations of Europe are convulsed and distracted by civil war or intestine strife, we settle all our political controversies by the peaceful exercise of the rights of freemen at the ballot-box. The great republican maxim so deeply engraven on the hearts of our people, that the will of the majority, constitutionally expressed, shall prevail, is our sure safeguard against force and violence. It is a subject of just pride, that our fame and character as a nation continue rapidly to advance in the estimation of the civilized world. To our wise and free institutions it is to be attributed, that while other nations have achieved glory at the suffering, distress, and impoverishment of their people, we have won our honorable position in the midst of an uninterrupted prosperity and of an increasing individual comfort and happiness. I am happy to inform you that our relations with all nations are friendly and pacific. Advantageous treaties of commerce have been concluded within the last four years with New Grenada, Peru, the Two Sicilies, Belgium, Hanover, Oldenburg, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Pursuing our example, the restrictive system of Great Britain, our principal foreign customer, has been relaxed; a more liberal commercial policy has been adopted by other enlightened nations, and our trade has been greatly enlarged and extended. Our country stands higher in the respect of the world than at any former period. To continue to occupy this proud position, it is only necessary to preserve peace, and faithfully adhere to the great and fundamental principle of our foreign policy, of non-interference in the domestic concerns of other nations. We recognize in all nations the rights which we enjoy ourselves, to change and reform their political institutions, according to their own will and pleasure. Hence we do not look behind existing governments, capable of maintaining their own authority. We recognize all such actual governments, not only from the dictates of true policy, but from a sacred regard for the independence of nations.

While this is our settled policy, it does not follow that we can ever be indifferent spectators of the progress of liberal principles. The government and people of the United States hailed with enthusiasm and delight the establishment of the French republic, as we now hail the efforts in progress to unite the States of Germany in a confederation, similar, in many respects, to our own federal Union. If the great and enlightened German States, occupying, as they do, a central and commanding position in Europe, shall succeed in establishing such a confederated government, securing at the same time to the citizens of each State, local governments adapted to the peculiar condition of each, with unrestricted trade and intercourse with each other, it will be an important era in the history of human events. While it will consolidate and strengthen the power of Germany, it must essentially promote the cause of peace, commerce, civilization, and constitutional liberty throughout the world.

With all the governments on this continent our relations, it is believed, are now on a more friendly and satisfactory footing than they have ever been at any former period.

Since the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace with Mexico, our intercourse with the government of that republic has been of the most friendly character. The Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Mexico has been received and accredited; and a diplomatic representative from Mexico of similar rank has been received and accredited by this government. The amicable relations between the two countries, which had been suspended, have been happily restored, and are destined, I trust, to be long preserved. The two republics, both situated on this continent, and with coterminous territories, have every motive of sympathy and of interest to bind them together in perpetual amity.

This gratifying condition of our foreign relations renders it unnecessary for me to call your attention more specifically to them.

It has been my constant aim and desire to cultivate peace and commerce with all nations. Tranquility at home, and peaceful relations abroad, constitute the true permanent policy of our country. War, the scourge of nations, sometimes becomes inevitable, but is always to be avoided when it can be honorably done consistently with the rights and honor of the nation.

One of the most important results of the war into which we were recently forced with a neighboring nation, is the demonstration it has afforded of the military strength of our country. Before the late war with Mexico, European and other foreign powers entertained imperfect and erroneous views of our physical strength as a nation, and of our ability to prosecute war, and especially a war waged out of our own country. They saw that our standing army on the peace establishment did not exceed ten thousand men. Accustomed themselves to maintain in peace large standing armies for the protection of thrones against their own subjects, as well as against foreign enemies, they had not conceived that it was possible for a nation without such an army, well disciplined and of long service, to wage war successfully. They held in low repute our militia, and were far from regarding them as an effective force, unless it might be for temporary defensive operations, when invaded on our own soil. The events of the late war with Mexico have not only undeceived them, but have removed erroneous impressions which prevailed to some extent even among a portion of our own countrymen. That war has demonstrated, that upon the breaking out of hostilities not anticipated, and for which no previous preparation had been made, a volunteer army of citizen soldiers, equal to veteran troops, and in numbers equal to any emergency, can in a short period be brought into the field. Unlike what would have occurred in any other country, we were under no necessity of resorting to draughts or conscriptions. On the contrary, such was the number of volunteers who patriotically tendered their services, that the chief difficulty was in making selections and determining who should be disappointed and compelled to remain at home. Our citizen soldiers are unlike those drawn from the population of any other country. They are composed indiscriminately of all professions and pursuits: of farmers, lawyers, physicians, merchants, manufacturers, mechanics and laborers; and this, not only among the officers, but the private soldiers in the ranks. Our citizen soldiers are unlike those of any other country in other respects. They are armed, and have been accustomed from their youth up, to handle and use firearms; and a large proportion of them, especially in the western and more newly settled States, are expert marksmen. They are men who have a reputation to maintain at home by their good conduct in the field. They are intelligent, and there is no individuality of character which is found in the ranks of no other army. In battle, each private man, as well as every officer, fights not only for his country, but for glory and distinction among his fellow citizens when he shall return to civil life.

The war with Mexico has demonstrated not only the ability of the Government to organize a numerous army upon a sudden call, but also to provide it with all the munitions and necessary supplies, with despatch, convenience, and ease, and to direct the operations with efficiency. The strength of our institutions has not only been displayed in the valor and skill of our troops engaged in active service in the field, but in the organization of those executive branches which were charged with the general direction and conduct of the war. While to the great praise cannot be bestowed upon the officers and men who fought our battles, it would be unjust to withhold from those officers necessarily stationed at home, who were charged with the duty of furnishing the army, in proper time, and at proper places, with all the munitions of war and other supplies so necessary to make it efficient, the commendation to which they are entitled. The credit due to this class of our officers is the greater, when it is considered that no army in ancient or modern times, was ever better appointed or provided than our army in Mexico. Operating in an enemy's country, removed two thousand miles from the seat of the Federal Government, its different corps spread over a vast extent of territory, hundreds and even thousands of miles apart from each other, nothing short of the untiring vigilance and extraordinary energy of these officers could have enabled them to provide the army at all points, and in proper season, with all that was required for the most efficient service.

It is an act of justice to declare, that the officers in charge of the several executive bureaus, all under the immediate eye and supervision of the Secretary of War, performed their respective duties with ability, energy and efficiency. They have reaped less of the glory of the war, not having been personally exposed to its perils in battle, than their companions in arms; but without their forecast, efficient aid, and co-operation, those in the field would not have been provided with the ample means they possessed of achieving for themselves and their country the unfading honors which they have won for both.

When all these facts are considered, it may cease to be a matter of so much amazement abroad how it happened that our noble army in Mexico, regulars and volunteers, were victorious upon every battle-field, however fearful the odds against them.

The war with Mexico has thus fully developed the capacity of republican governments to prosecute successfully a just and necessary foreign war with all the vigor usually attributed to more arbitrary forms of government. It has been usual for writers on public law to impute to republics a want of that unity, concentration of purpose, and vigor of execution which are generally admitted to belong to the monarchical and aristocratic forms; and this feature of popular government has been supposed to display itself more particularly in the conduct of a war carried on in an enemy's territory. The war with Great Britain in 1812, was to a great extent confined within our own limits, and shed but little light on this subject. But the war which we have just closed by an honorable peace, evinces beyond all doubt that a popular representative government is equal to any emergency which is likely to arise in the affairs of a nation.

The war with Mexico has developed most strikingly and conspicuously another feature in our institutions. It is, that without cost to the government or danger to our liberties, we have in the bosom of our society of freemen, available in a just and necessary war, virtually a standing army of two millions of armed citizen soldiers, such as fought the battles of Mexico.

But our military strength does not consist alone in our capacity for extended and successful operations on land. The navy is an important arm of the national defence. If the services of the navy were not so brilliant as those of the army, in the late war with Mexico, it was because they had no enemy to meet on their own element. While the army had opportunity of performing more conspicuous service, the navy largely participated in the conduct of the war. Both branches of the service performed their whole duty to the country. For the able and gallant services of the officers and men of the navy—acting independently as well as in co-operation with our troops—in the conquest of the Californias, the capture of Vera Cruz, and the seizure and occupation of other important positions on the Gulf and Pacific coasts, the highest praise is due. Their vigilance, energy, and skill rendered the most effective service in excluding munitions of war and other supplies from the enemy, while they secured a safe entrance for abundant supplies for our own army. Our extended commerce was nowhere interrupted; and for this immunity from the evils of war, the country is indebted to the navy.

High praise is due to the officers of the several executive bureaus, navy yards and stations connected with the service, all under the immediate direction of the Secretary of the Navy, for the industry, foresight and energy with which every thing was directed and furnished to give efficiency to that branch of the service. The same vigilance existed in directing the operations of the navy as of the army. There was concert of action and of purpose between the heads of the two arms of the service. By the orders which were from time to time issued, our vessels of war on the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico were stationed in proper time and in proper positions to co-operate efficiently with the army. By this means their combined power was brought to bear successfully on the enemy.

The great results which have been developed and brought to light by this war will be of immeasurable importance in the future progress of our country. They will tend powerfully to preserve us from foreign collisions, and to enable us to pursue uninterruptedly our cherished policy of "peace with all nations, entangling alliances with none."

Occupying, as we do, a more commanding position among nations than at any former period, our duties and our responsibilities to ourselves and to posterity are correspondingly increased. This will be the more obvious when we consider the vast additions which have been recently made to our territorial possessions, and their great importance and value.

Within less than four years the annexation of Texas to the Union has been consummated; all conflicting title to the Oregon Territory south of the forty-ninth degree of north latitude, being all that was insisted on by any of my predecessors, has been adjusted; and New Mexico and Upper California have been acquired by treaty. The area of these several Territories, according to a report carefully prepared by the Commissioner of the General Land Office from the most authentic information in his possession, and which is herewith transmitted, contains one million one hundred and ninety-three thousand and sixty-one square miles, or seven hundred and sixty-three million five hundred and fifty-nine thousand and forty acres; while the area of the remaining twenty-nine States, and the territory not yet organized into States east of the Rocky Mountains, contains two million fifty-nine thousand five hundred and thirteen square miles, or thirteen hundred and eighteen million one hundred and twenty-six thousand and fifty-eight acres.

These estimates show that the territories recently acquired, and over which our exclusive jurisdiction and dominion have been extended, constitute a country more than half as large as all that which was held by the United States before their acquisition. If Oregon be excluded from the estimate, there will still remain within the limits of Texas, New Mexico, and California, eight hundred and fifty-one thousand five hundred and ninety-eight square miles, or five hundred and forty-five million twelve thousand seven hundred and twenty acres; being an addition equal to more than one-third of all the territory owned by the United States before their acquisition; and, including Oregon, nearly as great an extent of territory as the whole of Europe, Russia only excepted. The Mississippi, so lately the frontier of our country, is now only its centre. With the addition of the late acquisitions, the United States are now estimated to be nearly as large as the whole of Europe. It is estimated by the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, in the accompanying report, that the extent of the sea coast of Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico, is upwards of four hundred miles; of the coast of Upper California, on the Pacific, of nine hundred and seventy miles; and of Oregon, including the Straits of Fuca, of six hundred and fifty miles; making the whole extent of seacoast on the Pacific, one thousand six hundred and twenty miles; and the whole extent, on both the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico, two thousand and twenty miles. The length of the coast on the Atlantic, from the Northern limits of the United States, around the Capes of Florida to the Sabine, on the Eastern boundary of Texas, is estimated to be three thousand one hundred miles; so that the addition of seacoast, including Oregon, is very nearly two-thirds as great as all we possessed before; and, excluding Oregon, is an addition of one thousand three hundred and seventy miles; being nearly equal to one-half of the extent of coast which we possessed before these acquisitions. We have now three great maritime fronts: on the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific—making, in the whole, an extent of seacoast exceeding five thousand miles. This is the extent of the seacoast of the United States, not including bays, sounds, and small irregularities of the main shore and of the sea islands. If these be included, the length of the shore line of coast, as estimated by the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, in his report, would be thirty-three thousand and sixty-three miles.

It would be difficult to calculate the value of these immense additions to our territorial possessions. Texas, lying contiguous to the western boundary of Louisiana, embracing within its limits a part of the navigable tributary waters of the Mississippi, and an extensive seacoast, could not long have remained in the hands of a foreign power without endangering the peace of our south western frontier. Her products in the vicinity of the tributaries of the Mississippi must have sought a market through these streams, running into and through our territory; and the danger of irritation and collision of interests between Texas as a foreign State and ourselves would have been imminent, while the embarrassments in the commercial intercourse between them must have been constant and unavoidable. Had Texas fallen into the hands or under the influence and control of a strong maritime or military foreign power, as she might have done, these dangers would have been still greater. They have been avoided by her voluntary and peaceful annexation to the United States. Texas, from her position, was a natural and almost indispensable part of our territories. Fortunately, she has been restored to our country and now constitutes one of the States of our confederacy, "upon an equal footing with the original States." The salubrity of climate, the fertility of soil, peculiarly adapted to the production of some of our most valuable staple commodities, and her commercial advantages, must soon make her one of our most populous States.

New Mexico, though situated in the interior, and without a sea-coast, is known to contain much fertile land, to abound in rich mines of the precious metals, and to be capable of sustaining a large population. From its position, it is the intermediate and connecting Territory between our settlements and our possessions in Texas, and those on the Pacific coast.

Upper California, irrespective of the vast mineral wealth recently developed there, holds at this day, in point of value and importance to the rest of the Union, the same relation that Louisiana did, when that fine Territory was acquired from France forty-five years ago. Extending nearly ten degrees of latitude along the Pacific, and embracing the only safe and commodious harbors on that coast for many hundred miles, with a temperate climate, and an extensive interior of fertile lands, it is scarcely possible to estimate its wealth until it shall be brought under the Government of our laws, and its resources fully developed. From its position, it must command the rich commerce of China, of Asia, of the islands of the Pacific, of Western Mexico, of Central America, the South American States, and of the Russian possessions bordering on that ocean.

A great emporium will doubtless speedily arise on the Californian coast, which may be destined to rival in importance New Orleans itself. The depositories of the vast commerce which must exist on the Pacific will probably be at some point on the bay of San Francisco, and will occupy the same relation to the whole Western coast of that ocean, as New Orleans does to the valley of the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. To this depot our numerous whale ships will resort with their cargoes, to trade, refit, and obtain supplies. This, of itself, will largely contribute to build up a city, which would soon become the centre of a great and rapidly increasing commerce. Situated on a safe harbor, sufficiently capacious for all the navies, as well as the marine of the world, and convenient to excellent timber for ship building, owned by the United States, it must become our great Western naval depot.

It was known that mines of the precious metals existed to a considerable extent in California at the time of its acquisition. Recent discoveries render it probable that these mines are more extensive and valuable than was anticipated. The accounts of the abundance of gold in that territory are of such an extraordinary character as would scarcely command belief, were they not corroborated by the authentic reports of officers in the public service, who have visited the mineral district, and derive the facts which they detail from personal observation. Reluctant to credit the reports in general circulation, as to the quantity of gold, the officer commanding our forces in California visited the mineral district in July last, for the purpose of obtaining accurate information on the subject. His report to the War Department of the result of his examination, and the facts obtained on the spot, is herewith laid before Congress. When he visited that country, there were about four thousand persons engaged in collecting gold. There is every reason to believe that the number of persons so employed has since been augmented. The explorations already made warrant the belief that the supply is very large, and that gold is found at various places in an extensive district of country.

Information received from officers of the navy and other sources, though not so full and minute, confirms the accounts of the commander of our military forces in California. It appears, also, from these reports, that mines of quicksilver are found in the vicinity of the gold region. One of them is now being worked, and is believed to be among the most productive in the world.

The effects produced by the discovery of these rich mineral deposits, and the success which has attended the labors of those who have resorted to them, have produced a surprising change in the state of affairs in California. Labor commands a most exorbitant price, and all other pursuits but that of searching for the precious metals are abandoned. Nearly the whole of the male population of the country have gone to the gold district. Ships arriving on the coast are deserted by their crews, and their voyages suspended for want of sailors. Our commanding officer there entertains apprehensions that soldiers cannot be kept in the public service without a large increase of pay. Desertions in his command have become frequent, and he recommends that those who shall withstand the strong temptation, and remain faithful, should be rewarded.

The abundance of gold, and the all-engrossing pursuit of it, have already caused in California an unprecedented rise in the price of the necessaries of life.

That we may the more speedily and fully avail ourselves of the undeveloped wealth of these mines, deemed of vast importance that a branch of the mint of the United States be authorized to be established, at your present session, in California. Among other signal advantages which would result from such an establishment would be that of raising the gold to its par value in that Territory. A branch mint of the United States at the great commercial depot on the west coast, would convert into our own coin not only the gold derived from our own rich mines, but also the bullion and specie which our commerce may bring from the whole west coast of Central and South America. The west coast of America and the adjacent interior embraces the richest and best mines of Mexico, New Grenada, Central America, Chili and Peru. The bullion and specie drawn from these countries, and especially from those of Western Mexico and Peru, to an amount in value of many millions of dollars, are now annually diverted and carried by ships of Great Britain to her own ports, to be recoined, or used to sustain her National Bank, and thus contribute to increase her ability to command so much of the commerce of the world. If a branch mint be established at the great commercial point upon that coast, a vast amount of bullion and specie would flow thither to be recoined, and pass thence to New Orleans, New York, and other Atlantic cities. The amount of our constitutional currency at home would be greatly increased, while its circulation abroad would be promoted. It is well known to our merchants trading to China and the west coast of America that great inconvenience and loss are experienced from the fact that our coins are not current at their par value in those countries.

The powers of Europe, far removed from the West coast of America by the Atlantic Ocean which intervenes, and by a tedious and dangerous navigation around the Southern Cape of the Continent of America, can never successfully compete with the United States in the rich and extensive commerce which is opened to us, at so much less cost, by the acquisition of California.

The vast importance and commercial advantages of California have heretofore remained undeveloped by the Government of the country of which it constituted a part. Now that this fine province is a part of our country, all the States of the Union, some more immediately and directly than others, are deeply interested in the speedy development of its wealth and resources. No section of the country is more interested, or will be more benefitted, than the commercial, navigating, and manufacturing interests of the Eastern States. Our planting and farming interests, in every part of the Union, will be greatly benefitted by it. As our commerce and navigation are enlarged and extended, our exports of agricultural products and of manufactures will be increased; and, in the new markets thus opened, they cannot fail to command remunerating and profitable prices.

The acquisition of California and New Mexico, the settlement of the Oregon boundary, and the annexation of Texas, extending to the Rio Grande, are results which, combined, are of greater consequence, and will add more to the strength and wealth of the nation, than any which have preceded them since the adoption of the Constitution.

But, to effect these great results, not only California, but New Mexico, must be brought under the control of regularly organized governments. The existing condition of California, and of that part of New Mexico lying west of the Rio Grande, and without the limits of Texas, imperiously demand that Congress should, at its present session, organize territorial governments over them.

Upon the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace with Mexico, on the thirtieth of May last, the temporary governments which had been established over New Mexico and California, by our military and naval commanders, by virtue of the rights of war, ceased to derive any obligatory force from that source of authority; and having been ceded to the United States, all government and control over them under the authority of Mexico, had ceased to exist. Impressed with the necessity of establishing territorial governments over them I recommended the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress in my message, communicating the ratified treaty of peace, on the sixth of July last, and invoked their action at that session. Congress adjourned without making any provision for their government. The inhabitants, by the transfer of their country, had become entitled to the benefits of our laws and constitution, and yet were left without any regularly organized government. Since that time, the very limited power possessed by the Executive, has been exercised to preserve and protect them from the inevitable consequences of a state of anarchy.

The only government which remained was that established by the military authority during the war. Regarding this to be a *de facto* government, and that by the presumed consent of the inhabitants, it might be continued temporarily, they were advised to conform and submit to it for the short intervening period before Congress would again assemble, and could legislate on the subject. The views entertained by the Executive on this point, are contained in a communication of the Secretary of State, dated the seventh of October last, which was forwarded for publication to California and New Mexico, a copy of which is herewith transmitted.

The small military force of the regular army, which was serving within the limits of the acquired territories, at the close of the war, was retained in them, and additional forces have been ordered there, for the protection of the inhabitants, and to preserve and secure the rights and interests of the United States.

No revenue has been or could be collected at the ports in California, because Congress failed to authorize the establishment of custom houses, or the appointment of officers for that purpose.

The Secretary of the Treasury, by a circular letter addressed to collectors of the customs, on the seventh day of October last, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, exercised all the power with which he was invested by law.

In pursuance of the act of the fourteenth of August last, extending the benefits of our post office laws to the people of California, the Postmaster General has appointed two agents, who have proceeded—the one to California and the other to Oregon, with authority to make the necessary arrangements for carrying its provisions into effect.

The monthly line of mail steamers from Panama to Astoria has been required to "stop and deliver and take mails at San Diego, Monterey and San Francisco." These mail steamers, connected by the Isthmus of Panama with the line of mail steamers on the Atlantic between New York and Chagres, will establish a regular mail communication with California.

It is our solemn duty to provide, with the least practicable delay, for New Mexico and California, regularly organized territorial governments. The causes of the failure to do this at the last session of Congress are well known, and deeply to be regretted. With the opening prospects of increased prosperity and national greatness which the acquisition of these rich and extensive territorial possessions affords, how irrational it would be to forego or to reject these advantages, by the agitation of a domestic question which is coeval with the existence of our government itself, and to endanger by internal strifes, geographical divisions, and heated contests for political power, or for any other cause, the harmony of the glorious Union of our confederated States; that Union which binds us together as one people, and which for sixty years has been our shield and protection against every danger. In the eyes of the world and of posterity, how trivial and insignificant will be all our internal divisions and struggles, compared with the preservation of this Union of the States, in all its vigor and with all its countless blessings! No patriot would foment and excite geographical and sectional divisions. No lover of his country would deliberately calculate the value of the Union.

Future generations would look with amazement upon the folly of such a course. Other nations at the present day would look upon it with astonishment; and such of them as desire to maintain and perpetuate thrones and monarchial or aristocratical principles, will view it with exultation and delight, because in it they will see the elements of faction, which they hope must ultimately overrun our system. Ours is the great example of a prosperous and free self-governed republic, commanding the admiration and the imitation of all lovers of freedom throughout the world. How solemn, therefore, is the duty, how impressive the call upon us and upon all parts of our country, to cultivate a patriotic spirit of harmony, of good fellowship, of compromise and mutual concession, in the administration of the incomparable system of government formed by our fathers in the midst of almost insuperable difficulties, and transmitted to us, with the injunction that we should enjoy its blessings and hand it down unimpaired to those who may come after us.

In view of the high and responsible duties which we owe to ourselves and to mankind, I trust you may be able at your present session, to approach the adjustment of the only domestic question which seriously threatens or probably ever can threaten, to disturb the harmony and successful operation of our system.

The immensely valuable possessions of New Mexico and California are already inhabited by a considerable population. Attracted by their great fertility, their mineral wealth, their commercial advantages, and the salubrity of the climate, emigrants from the older States, in great numbers, are already preparing to seek new homes in these inviting regions.

Still the dissimilarity of the domestic institutions in the different States prevent us from providing for them suitable governments? These institutions existed at the adoption of the Constitution, but the obstacles which they interposed were overcome by that spirit of compromise which is now invoked. In a conflict of opinions or of interests, real or imaginary, between different sections of our country, neither can justly demand all which it might desire to obtain. Each, in the true spirit of our institutions, should concede something to the other.

Our gallant forces in the Mexican war, by whose patriotism and unparalleled deeds of arms we obtained these possessions as an indemnity for our just demands against Mexico, were composed of citizens who belonged to no one State or section of our Union. They were men from slaveholding and non-slaveholding States, from the North and the South, from the East and the West. They were all companions-in-arms and fellow-citizens of the same common country, engaged in the same common cause. When prosecuting that war, they were brethren and friends, and shared alike with each other common toils, dangers, and sufferings. Now, when their work is ended, when peace is restored, and they return again to their homes, put off the habiliments of war, take their places in society, and resume their pursuits in civil life, surely a spirit of harmony and concession, and of equal regard for the rights of all and of all sections of the Union ought to prevail in providing governments for the acquired territories—the fruits of their common service. The whole people of the United States and of every State contributed to defray the expenses of that war; and it would not be just for any one section to exclude another from all participation in the acquired territory. This would not be in consonance with the just system of government which the framers of the constitution adopted.

The question is believed to be rather abstract than practical, whether slavery ever can or would exist in any portion of the acquired territory, even if it were left to the option of the Slaveholding States themselves. From the nature of the climate and productions, in much the larger portion of it, it is certain it could never exist; and in the remainder the probabilities are it would not. But however this may be, the question, involving as it does, a principle of equality of rights of the separate and several States, as equal co-partners in the confederacy, should not be disregarded.

In organizing governments over these Territories, no duty imposed on Congress by the constitution requires that they should legislate on the subject of slavery, while their power to do so is not only seriously questioned, but denied by many of the soundest expounders of that instrument. Whether Congress shall legislate or not, the people of the acquired Territories, when assembled in convention to form State Constitutions, will possess the sole and exclusive power to determine for themselves whether slavery shall or shall not exist within their limits. If Congress shall abstain from interfering with the question, the people of these Territories will be left free to adjust it as they may think proper, when they apply for admission as States into the Union. No enactment of Congress could restrain the people of any of the sovereign States of the Union, old or new, north or south, slaveholding or non-slaveholding, from determining the character of their own domestic institutions as they may deem wise and proper. Any and all the States possess this right, and Congress cannot deprive them of it. The people of Georgia might, if they chose, so alter their constitution as to abolish slavery within its limits; and the people of Vermont might so alter their constitution as to admit slavery within its limits. Both States would possess the right; though all know, it is not probable that either would exert it.

It is fortunate for the peace and harmony of the Union that this question is in its nature temporary, and can only continue for the brief period which will intervene before California and New Mexico may be admitted as States into the Union. From the tide of population now flowing into them, it is highly probable that this will soon occur.

Considering the several States and the citizens of the several States as equals, and entitled to equal rights under the constitution, if this were an original question, it might well be insisted on that the principle of non-interference is the true doctrine, and that Congress could not, in the absence of any express grant of power, interfere with their relative rights. Upon a great emergency, however, and under menacing dangers to the Union, the Missouri compromise line in respect to slavery was adopted. The same line was extended farther west in the acquisition of Texas.

After an acquiescence of nearly thirty years in the principle of compromise recognized and established by these acts, and to avoid the danger to the Union which might follow if it were not disregarded, I have heretofore expressed the opinion that that line of compromise should be extended on the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes from the western boundary of Texas, where it now terminates, to the Pacific Ocean. This is the middle ground of compromise, upon which the different sections of the Union may meet, as they have heretofore met. If this be done, it is confidently believed a large majority of the people of every section of the country, however widely their abstract opinions on the subject of slavery may differ, would cheerfully and patriotically acquiesce in it, and peace and harmony would again fill our borders.

The restriction north of the line was only yielded to in the case of Missouri and Texas upon a principle of compromise, made necessary for the sake of preserving the harmony, and possibly the existence of the Union.

It was upon these considerations that at the close of your last session, I gave my sanction to the principle of the Missouri compromise line, by approving and signing the bill to establish "the Territorial government of Oregon." From a sincere desire to preserve the harmony of the Union, and in deference for the acts of my predecessors, I felt constrained to yield my acquiescence to the extent to which they had gone in compromising this delicate and dangerous question. But if Congress shall now reverse the decision which the Missouri compromise was effected, and shall propose to extend the restriction over the whole territory, south as well as north of the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes, it will cease to be a compromise, and must be regarded as an original question.

If Congress, instead of observing the course of non-interference, leaving the adoption of their own domestic institutions to the people who may inhabit these Territories; or if, instead of extending the Missouri compromise line to the Pacific, shall prefer to submit the legal and constitutional questions which may arise to the decision of the judicial tribunals, as was proposed in a bill which passed the Senate at your late session, an adjustment may be effected in this mode. If the whole subject be referred to the judiciary, all parts of the Union should cheerfully acquiesce in the final decision of the tribunal, created by the constitution for the settlement of all questions which may arise under the constitution, treaties and laws of the United States.

Congress is earnestly invoked, for the sake of the Union, its harmony, and our continued prosperity as a nation, to adjust at its present session this, the only dangerous question which lies in our path—if not in some one of the modes suggested, in some other which may be satisfactory.

In anticipation of the establishment of regular governments over the acquired territories, a joint commission of officers of the army and navy has been ordered to proceed to the coast of California and Oregon, for the purpose of making reconnoissances and a report as to the proper sites for the erection of fortifications or other defensive works on land, and of suitable situations for naval stations. The information which may be expected from a scientific and skilful examination of the whole face of the coast, will be eminently useful to Congress, when they come to consider the propriety of making appropriations for these great national objects. Proper defences on land will be necessary for the security and protection of our possessions; and the establishment of navy yards, and a dock for the repair and construction of vessels, will be important alike to our navy and commercial marine. Without such establishments, every vessel, whether of the navy or of the merchant service, requiring repair, must, at great expense, come round Cape Horn to one of our Atlantic yards for that purpose. With such establishments, vessels, it is believed, may be built or repaired as cheaply in California as upon the Atlantic coast. They would give employment to many of our enterprising ship-builders and mechanics, and greatly facilitate and enlarge our commerce in the Pacific.

As it is ascertained that mines of gold, silver, copper and quicksilver exist in New Mexico and California, and that nearly all the lands where they are found belong to the United States, it is deemed important to the public interests that provision be made for a geological and mineralogical examination of these regions. Measures should be adopted to preserve the mineral lands, especially such as contain the precious metals, for the use of the United States; or if brought into market, to separate them from the farming lands, and dispose of them in such a manner as to secure a large return of money to the treasury, and at the same time lead to the development of their wealth by individual proprietors and purchasers. To do this, it will be necessary to provide for an immediate survey and location of the lots. If Congress should deem it proper to dispose of the mineral lands, they should be sold in small quantities, and at a fixed minimum price.

I recommend that surveyor generals' offices be authorized to be established in New Mexico and California, and provision made for sur

The Maine Farmer; A Family Newspaper, Devoted to Agriculture, The Arts, Literature, General Intelligence, &c. &c.

Within the last four years eight important treaties have been negotiated with different Indian tribes, and at a cost of one million eight hundred and forty-two thousand dollars; Indian lands to the amount of more than eighteen million five hundred thousand acres, have been ceded to the United States; and provision has been made for settling in the country west of the Mississippi the tribes which occupied this large extent of the public domain. The title to all the Indian lands within the several States of our Union, with the exception of a few small reservations, is now extinguished, and a vast region opened for settlement and cultivation.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy gives a satisfactory exhibit of the operations and condition of that branch of the public service.

A number of small vessels suitable for entering the mouths of rivers were judiciously purchased during the war, and gave great efficiency to the squadron in the Gulf of Mexico. On the return of peace, when no longer valuable for naval purposes, and liable to constant deterioration, they were sold, and the money placed in the treasury.

The number of men in the naval service authorized by law during the war, has been reduced by discharges below the maximum fixed for the peace establishment. Adequate squad ons are maintained in the several quarters of the globe, where experience has shown their services may be most usefully employed; and the naval service was never in a condition of higher discipline or greater efficiency.

I invite attention to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy on the subject of marine corps. The reduction of the corps at the end of the war, required that four officers of each of the three lower grades should be dropped from the rolls. A board of officers made the selection; and those designated were necessarily dismissed, but without any alleged fault. I concur in opinion with the Secretary, that the service would be improved by reducing the number of landsmen, and increasing the marines. Such a measure would justify an increase of the number of officers, to the extent of the reduction by dismissal, and still the corps would have fewer officers than a corresponding number of men in the army.

The contracts for the transportation of the mail in steamships convertible into war-steamers, promise to realize all the benefits to our commerce and to the navy which were anticipated. The first steamer thus secured to the government was launched in January, 1847. There are now seven; and in another year there will, probably, be not less than seventeen afloat. While this great national advantage is secured, our social and commercial intercourse is increased and promoted with Germany, Great Britain, and other parts of Europe, with all the countries on the West Coast of our continent, especially with Oregon and California, and between the northern and southern sections of the United States. Considerable revenue may be expected from postages; but the connected line from New York to Chagres, and thence across the isthmus to Oregon, cannot fail to exert a beneficial influence not now to be estimated, on the interests of the manufactures, commerce, navigation, and currency of the United States. As an important part of the system, I recommend to your favorable consideration the establishment of the proposed line of steamers between New Orleans and Vera Cruz. It promises the most happy results in cementing friendship between the two republics, and in extending reciprocal benefits to the trade and manufactures of both.

The report of the Postmaster General will make known to you the operations of that department for the past year.

It is gratifying to find the revenues of the department, under the rates of postage now established by law, so rapidly increasing. The gross amount of postages during the last fiscal year amounted to four million three hundred seventy-one thousand and seventy-seven dollars, exceeding the annual average received for the nine years immediately preceding the passage of the act of the third of March, 1845, by the sum of six thousand four hundred and fifty-three dollars, and exceeding the amount received for the year ending the thirtieth of June, 1847, by the sum of four hundred and twenty-five thousand one hundred and eighty-four dollars.

The expenditures for the year, excluding the sum of ninety-four thousand six hundred and seventy-two dollars, allowed by Congress at its last session to individual claimants, and including the sum of one hundred thousand five hundred dollars paid for the services of the line of steamers between Bremen and New York, amounted to four million one hundred and ninety-eight thousand eight hundred and forty-five dollars, which is less than the annual average for the nine years previous to the act of 1845, by three hundred thousand seven hundred and forty-eight dollars.

The mail routes, on the 30th day of June last, were one hundred and sixty-three thousand two hundred and eight miles in extent—being an increase during the last year of nine thousand three hundred and ninety miles. The mails were transported over them, during the same time, forty-one million twelve thousand five hundred and seventy-nine miles; making an increase of transportation for the year of two million one hundred and twenty-four thousand six hundred and eighty miles, while the expense was less than that of the previous year by four thousand two hundred and thirty-five dollars.

The increase in the mail transportation within the last three years has been five millions three hundred and seventy-eight thousand three hundred and ten miles, while the expenses were reduced four hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight dollars—making an increase of service at the rate of fifteen per cent. and a reduction in the expenses of more than fifteen per cent.

During the past year there have been employed, under contracts with the Post Office Department, two ocean steamers in conveying the mails monthly between New York and Bremen, and one, since October last, performing semi-monthly service between Charleston and Havana; and a contract has been made for the transportation of the Pacific mails across the isthmus from Chagres to Panama.

Under the authority given to the Secretary of the Navy, three ocean steamers have been constructed and sent to the Pacific, and are expected to enter upon the mail service between Panama and Oregon, and the intermediate ports, on the first of January next, and a fourth has been engaged by him for the service between Havana and Chagres; so that a regular monthly mail line will be kept up after that time between the United States and our territories on the Pacific.

Notwithstanding this great increase in the mail service, should the revenue continue to increase the present year as it did in the last, there will be received near $450,000 more than the amount estimated.

These considerations have satisfied the Postmaster General that, with certain modifications of the act of 1845, the revenue may be still farther increased, and a reduction of postages made to a uniform rate of five cents, without an interference with the principle which has been constantly and properly enforced, of making that department sustain itself.

A well-digested cheap postage system is the best means of diffusing intelligence among the people, and is of so much importance in a country so extensive as that of the United States, that I recommend to your favorable consideration the suggestions of the Postmaster General for its improvement.

Nothing can retard the onward progress of our country, and prevent us from assuming and maintaining the first rank among nations, but a disregard of the experience of the past, and a recurrence to an unwise public policy. We have just closed a foreign war by an honorable peace—a war rendered necessary and unavoidable in vindication of the national rights and honor. The present condition of the country is similar in some respects to that which existed immediately after the close of the war with Great Britain in 1815, and the occasion is deemed to be a proper one to take a retrospect of the measures of public policy which followed that war. There was at that period of our history a departure from our earlier policy. The enlargement of the powers of the federal government by *construction*, which obtained, was not warranted by any just interpretation of the constitution. A few years after the close of that war, a series of measures was adopted which, united and combined, constituted what was termed by their authors and advocates the "American system."

The introduction of the new policy was for a time favored by the condition of the country; by the heavy debt which had been contracted during the war; by the depressed state of public credit; by the deranged state of the finances and the currency; and by the commercial and pecuniary embarrassment which extensively prevailed. These were not the only causes which led to its establishment. The events of the war with Great Britain, and the embarrassments which had attended its prosecution, had left on the minds of many of our statesmen the impression that our government was not strong enough, and that to wield its resources successfully in great emergencies, and especially in war, more power should be concentrated in its hands. This increased power they did not seek to obtain by the legitimate and prescribed mode—an amendment of the constitution—but by construction. They saw governments in the old world based upon different orders of society, and so constituted as to throw the whole power of nations into the hands of a few, who taxed and controlled the many, without responsibility or restraint. To that arrangement they conceived the strength of nations in war consisted.

There was also something fascinating in the ease, luxury, and display of the higher orders, who drew their wealth from the toil of the laboring millions. The authors of the system drew their ideas of political economy from what they had witnessed in Europe, and particularly in Great Britain. They had viewed the enormous wealth concentrated in a few hands, and had seen the splendor of the overgrown establishments of an aristocracy which was upheld by the restrictive policy. They forgot to look down upon the poorer classes of the English population, upon whose daily and yearly labor the great establishments they so much admired were sustained and supported. They failed to perceive that the scantily fed and hall clad operatives were not only in abject poverty, but were bound in chains of oppressive servitude for the benefit of favored classes, who were the exclusive objects of the care of the government.

It was not possible to reconstruct society in the United States upon the European plan. Here there was a written constitution, by which orders and titles were not recognized or tolerated. A system of measures was therefore devised, calculated, if not intended, to withdraw power gradually and silently from the States and from the mass of the people, and by *construction* to approximate our government to the European models, substituting an aristocracy of wealth for that of orders and titles.

Without reflecting on the dissimilarity of our institutions, and of the conditions of our people and those of Europe, they conceived the vain idea of building up in the United States a system similar to that which they admired abroad. Great Britain had a national bank of large capital, in whose hands was concentrated the controlling monetary and financial power of the nation; an institution wielding almost kingly power, and exerting vast influences upon all the operations of trade, and upon the policy of the government itself. Great Britain had an enormous public debt, and it had become a part of her public policy to regard this as a "public blessing." Great Britain had also a restrictive policy, which placed fetters and burdens on trade, and trammelled the productive industry of the mass of the nation. By her combined system of policy, the landlords and other property holders were protected and enriched by the enormous taxes which were levied upon the labor of the country for their advantage.

Imitating this foreign policy, the first step in establishing the new system in the United States was the creation of a national bank. Not foreseeing the dangerous power and countless evils which such an institution might entail on the country, nor perceiving the connexion which it was designed to form between the bank and the other branches of the misnamed "American system," but feeling the embarrassments of the treasury, and of the business of the country, consequent upon the war, some of our statesmen who had held different and sounder views were induced to yield their scruples, and, indeed, settled conviction of its unconstitutionality, and to give their support to a measure expedient which they vainly hoped might produce relief. It was a most unfortunate error, as the subsequent history and final catastrophe of that dangerous and corrupt institution have abundantly proved. The bank, with its numerous ramifications into the States, at once brought many of the active political and commercial men in different sections of the country into the relation of debtors to it, and dependants upon it for pecuniary favors; thus diffusing throughout the mass of society a great number of individuals of power and influence to give tone to public opinion, and to act in concert in cases of emergency. The corrupt power of such a political engine is no longer a matter of speculation, having been displayed in numerous instances, but most signally in the political struggles of 1832—'3—'4, in opposition to the public will, represented by a fearless and patriotic President.

But the bank was but one branch of the new system.—A public debt of more than one hundred and twenty millions of dollars existed; and is cherished by those who disapproved that many of the authors of the new system did not regard its speedy payment as essential to the public prosperity, but looked upon its continuance as no national evil. Whilst the debt existed, it furnished aliment to the national bank, and rendered increased taxation necessary to the amount of the interest, exceeding seven millions of dollars annually.

This operated in harmony with the next branch of the new system, which was a high protective tariff. This was to afford bounties to favored classes and particular pursuits, at the expense of all others. A proposition to tax the whole people for the purpose of enriching a few, was too monstrous to be openly made. The scheme was, therefore, veiled under the plausible but delusive pretext of a measure to protect "home industry;" and many of our people were, for a time, led to believe that a tax, which in the main fell upon labor, was for the benefit of the laborer who paid it. This branch of the system involved a partnership between the government and the favored classes—the former receiving the proceeds of the tax imposed on articles imported, and the latter the increased price of similar articles produced at home, caused by such tax. It is obvious that the portion to be received by the favored classes would, as a general rule, be increased in proportion to the increase of the rates of tax imposed, and that as those rates were reduced to the revenue standard required by the wants of the government. The rates required to produce a sufficient revenue for the ordinary expenditures of government, for necessary purposes, were not sufficient to give to the favored classes the profits they sought to obtain, deemed sufficient to satisfy their cupidity; and hence a variety of expedients and pretexts were resorted to for the purpose of enlarging the expenditures, and thereby creating a necessity for keeping up a high protective tariff. The effect of this policy was to interpose artificial restrictions upon the natural course of the business and trade of the country, and to advance the interests of the favored few, as monopolists, at the expense of the great mass of the people, who were taxed to increase their wealth.

Another branch of this system was a comprehensive scheme of internal improvements, capable of indefinite enlargement, and sufficient to swallow up as many millions annually as could be exacted from the foreign commerce of the country. This was a convenient and necessary adjunct of the protective tariff. It was to be the great absorbent of any surplus which might at any time accumulate in the treasury, and of the taxes levied on the people, not for necessary revenue purposes, but for the avowed object of affording protection to the favored classes.

Auxiliary to the same end, if it was not an essential part of the system itself, was the scheme, which, at a later period, obtained, for distributing the proceeds of the sales of the public lands among the States. Other expedients were devised to take money out of the treasury, and prevent its coming in from any other source than the protective tariff. The authors and supporters of the system made the rates of the largest expenditures whether for necessary and useful purposes or not, because the larger the expenditures the greater was the pretext for high taxes in the form of protective duties.

The several measures were sustained by popular names and plausible arguments, by which thousands were deluded. The bank was represented to be an indispensable fiscal agent for the government, was to equalize the exchanges, and to regulate and furnish a uniform currency always and everywhere of uniform value. The protective tariff was to give employment to "American" labor at advanced prices; was to protect "home industry," and furnish a steady market for the farmer. Internal improvements were to bring trade into every neighborhood, and enhance the value of every man's property. The distribution of the land money was to enrich the States, finish their public works, plant schools throughout their borders, and relieve them from taxation. But the fact, that for every dollar taken out of the treasury for these objects, a much larger sum was transferred from the pockets of the people to the favored classes, was carefully concealed, as was also the tendency, if not the ultimate design, of the whole system, by the creation of wealth, to control the masses of society, and monopolize the political power of the country.

The several branches of this system were so intimately blended together, that in their operation each sustained and strengthened the others. Their joint operation was, to add new burthens of taxation and to encourage a largely increased and wasteful expenditure of public money. It was the interest of the bank that the revenue collected and the disbursements made by the government should be large, because, being the depository of the public money, the larger the amount, the greater would be the bank profits by its use. It was the interest of the favored classes, who were enriched by the protective tariff, to have the rates of that protection so high as greatly to exceed those rates, the greater would be their advantage. It was the interest of the people of all those sections and localities who expected to be benefitted by expenditures for internal improvements, that the amount collected should be large as possible, to the end that the sum disbursed might also be the larger. The States being the beneficiaries in the distribution of the land money, had an interest in having the rates of tax imposed by the protective tariff large enough to yield a sufficient revenue from that source to meet the wants of the government, without disturbing or taking from them the land fund; so that each of the branches constituting the system had a common interest in swelling the public expenditures. They had a direct interest in perpetuating the public debt unpaid, and increasing its amount, because this would produce an increased drain upon the treasury, to the amount of the interest, and render augmented taxes necessary. The operation and necessary effect of the whole system was, to encourage large and extravagant expenditures, and thereby to increase the public patronage, and maintain a rich and splendid government at the expense of a taxed and impoverished people.

It is manifest that this scheme of enlarged taxation and expenditures, had it continued to prevail, must soon have converted the government of the Union, intended by its framers to be a plain, cheap, and simple confederation of States, united together for common protection, and charged with a few specific duties, into a splendid and ruling empire, consolidated, depriving the States of their reserved rights, and the people of their just power and control in the administration of their government. In this manner, the whole form and character of the government would be changed, not by an amendment of the constitution, but by resorting to an unwarrantable and unauthorized construction of that instrument.

The indirect mode of levying the taxes by a duty on imports, prevents the mass of the people from readily perceiving the amount they pay, and has enabled the few, who are thus enriched, and who seek to wield the political power of the country, to deceive and delude them. Were the taxes collected by a direct tax upon the people, as in the case in the States, this could not occur.

The whole system was resisted from its inception by many of our ablest statesmen, some of whom doubted its constitutionality and its expediency, while others believed it was in all its branches, a flagrant and dangerous infraction of the constitution.

That a national bank, a protective tariff, levied not to raise the revenue needed, but for protection merely, internal improvements, and the distribution of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands, are measures without the warrant of the constitution, would, upon the maturest consideration, seem to be clear. It is remarkable that no one of these measures, involving such momentous consequences, is authorized by an express grant of power in the constitution. No one of them is "incident to, as being necessary and proper for the execution of, the specific powers" granted by the constitution. The authority under which it has been attempted to justify each of them is derived from inferences and constructions of the constitution which its letter and its whole object and design do not warrant. Is it to be conceived that such immense powers would have been left by the framers of the constitution to mere inferences and doubtful constructions? *Had it been intended to confer them on the federal government*, it is but reasonable to conclude that it would have been done by plain and unequivocal grants. This was not done; but the whole structure of the "American system" consisted, was reared on no other or better foundation than forced implications and inferences of power which its authors assumed might be deduced by construction from the constitution.

But it has been said that the national bank, which constituted so essential a branch of this combined system, was not a new measure; that its constitutionality had been previously sanctioned, because a bank had been chartered in 1791, and had received the official signature of President Washington. A few facts will show the just weight to which the precedent should be entitled, as bearing upon the question of constitutionality.

Great division of opinion upon the subject existed in Congress, and in the country. It is well known that President Washington entertained serious doubts both as to the constitutionality and expediency of the measure; and while the bill was before him, for his official approval or disapproval, so great were these doubts, that he required "the opinion in writing," of the principal officers of his cabinet to aid him in arriving at a decision. His cabinet gave their opinion, and were divided upon the subject—Gen. Hamilton being in favor of, and Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Randolph being opposed to the constitutionality and expediency of the bank. It is well known, also, that President Washington retained the bill from Monday, the 14th, when it was presented to him, until Friday, the 25th of February—being the last moment permitted him by the constitution to deliberate, when he finally yielded to it his reluctant assent, and gave it his signature. It is certain that as late as the 23d of February,—being the ninth day after the bill was presented to him—he had arrived at no satisfactory conclusion; for, on that day he addressed a note to Gen. Hamilton, in which he informs him that "this bill was presented to me by the joint committee of Congress, at 9 o'clock, on Monday, the 14th inst.;" and he requested his opinion "to what precise period, by legal interpretation of the constitution can the President retain it in his possession, before it becomes a law by the lapse of ten days." If the proper construction was, that the day on which the bill was presented to the President, and the day on which his action was had upon it, were both to be counted inclusive, then the time allowed him, within which it would be competent for him to return it to the House in which it originated with his objections, would expire on Thursday, the 24th of February. Gen. Hamilton, on the same day, returned an answer, in which he states,—"I give it as my opinion that you have ten days exclusive of that on which the bill was delivered to you, and Sundays; hence, in the present case, if it is returned on Friday, it will be in time." By this construction, which the President adopted, he gained another day for deliberation, and it was not until the 25th of February that he signed the bill; thus affording conclusive proof that he had at last obtained his own consent to sign it not without great and almost insuperable difficulty. Additional light has been recently shed upon the serious doubts which he had on the subject, amounting at one time to a conviction that it was his duty to withhold his approval from the bill. This is found among the manuscript papers of Mr. Madison, authorized to be purchased for the use of the government by an act of the last session of Congress, and now for the first time accessible to the public. From these papers, it appears that President Washington, while he yet held the bank bill in his hands, actually requested Mr. Madison, at that time a member of the House of Representatives, to prepare the draft of a veto message for him. Mr. Madison, at his request, did prepare the draft of such a message, and sent it to him on the 21st of Feb., 1791. A copy of this original draft, in Mr. Madison's own handwriting was carefully preserved by him, and is among the papers lately purchased by Congress. It is preceded by a note, written on the same sheet, which is also in Mr. Madison's handwriting, and is as follows:—

"February 21st, 1791. Copy of a paper made out and sent to the President at his request, to be ready in case his judgment should finally decide against the bill for incorporating a national bank, the bill being then before him."

Among the objections assigned in this paper to the bill, and which were submitted for the consideration of the President, are the following:

"I object to the bill, because it is an essential principle of the government, that powers not delegated by the Constitution cannot be rightfully exercised; because the power proposed by the bill to be exercised is not expressly delegated, and because I cannot satisfy myself that it results from any express power by fair and safe rules of interpretation."

The weight of the precedent of the bank of 1791, and the sanction of the great name of Washington which has been so often invoked in its support, are greatly weakened by the development of these facts. The experiment of that bank satisfied the country that it ought not to be continued, and at the end of twenty years Congress refused to recharter it. It would have been fortunate for the country, and saved thousands from bankruptcy and ruin, had our public men of 1816 resisted the temporary pressure of the times upon our financial and pecuniary interests, and refused to charter the second bank. Of this the country became abundantly satisfied, and at the close of its twenty years' duration, as in the case of the first bank, it also ceased to exist. Under the pressure of the embarrassments of 1837, it reeled and fell, and a subsequent attempt to charter a similar institution was arrested by the veto of President Tyler.

Mr. Madison, in yielding his signature to the charter of 1816, did so upon ground of the respect due to precedents; and, as he more distinctly declared, "that the sanction of the United States, though on the original question, held to be unconstitutional, received the Executive signature."

It is probable that neither the bank of 1791, nor that of 1816, would have been chartered but for the embarrassments of the government in its finances, the derangement of the currency and the pecuniary pressure which existed—the first the consequence of the war of the revolution, and the second the consequence of the war of 1812. Both were resorted to in the delusive hope that they would restore public credit, and afford relief to the government, and to the business of the country.

Those of our public men who opposed the whole "American system" at its commencement, and throughout its progress, foresaw and predicted that it was fraught with incalculable mischiefs, and must result in serious injury to the best interests of the country. For a series of years their wise counsels were unheeded, and the system was established. It was soon apparent that its practical operation was unequal and unjust upon different portions of the country, and upon the people engaged in different pursuits. All were equally entitled to the favor and protection of the government. It fostered and elevated the money power, and enriched the favored few by taxing labor, and at the expense of the many. Its effect was to "make the rich richer and the poor poorer." Its tendency was to create distinctions in society based on wealth, and to give to the favored classes undue control and sway in our government. It was an organized money power, which reared itself above the will, and sought to shape and control the public policy.

Under the pernicious workings of this combined system of measures, the country witnessed alternate seasons of temporary apparent prosperity; of sudden and disastrous commercial revulsions; of unprecedented fluctuation of prices, and depression of the great interests of agriculture, navigation, and commerce; of general pecuniary suffering, and of final bankruptcy of thousands. After a severe struggle of more than a quarter of a century, the system was overthrown.

The bank has been succeeded by a practical system of finance, conducted and controlled solely by the government. The constitutional currency has been restored; the public credit maintained unimpaired, even in a period of foreign war; and the whole country has become satisfied that banks and paper credit are not necessary as fiscal agents of the country. Revenue duties have taken the place of the protective tariff. The distribution of the money derived from the sale of the public lands has been abandoned, and the corrupting system of internal improvements, it is hoped, has been effectually checked.

It is not doubted, that if this whole train of measures designed to take wealth from the many, and bestow it upon the few, were to prevail, the effect would be to change the entire character of the government. One only danger remains. It is the selection of that branch of the system which consists in internal improvements, holding out, as it does, inducements to the people of particular sections and localities to embark the government in them without stopping to calculate the inevitable consequences. This branch of the system will be dismantled and fall naturally with the others, that as surely as an effect is produced by an adequate cause, if it be resuscitated and revived, and firmly established, it requires no sagacity to foresee that it will necessarily and speedily drive after it the re-establishment of a national bank, the revival of a protective tariff, the distribution of the land money, and not only the postponement to the distant future of the payment of the present national debt, but its annual increase.

I entertain the full conviction, that if the internal improvement branch of the "American system," be not firmly resisted at this time, the whole series of measures composing it will be speedily re-established, and the country thrown back from its present high state of prosperity, which the existing policy has produced, and be destined to witness again all the evils, commercial revulsions, depression of prices, and pecuniary embarrassments, through which we have passed during the last twenty-five years.

To guard against consequences so ruinous, is an object of high national importance, involving in my judgment the continued prosperity of the country.

I have felt it to be an imperative obligation to withhold my constitutional sanction from two bills which have passed the two Houses of Congress, proposing to embrace the internal improvement branch of the "American system" and conflicting in their provisions with the views here expressed.

The power conferred upon the President by the constitution, I have on three occasions, during my administration of the executive department of the government, deemed it my duty to exercise, and on the last occasion of making to Congress an annual communication "of the state of the Union," I stated my views of the principles and considerations which have governed my action. I deem this the more necessary, because, after the lapse of nearly sixty years since the adoption of the constitution, the propriety of the exercise of this undoubted constitutional power is for the first time, during the first time been drawn seriously in question by a portion of my fellow citizens.

The constitution provides that "every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve, he shall sign it, but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal and proceed to reconsider it."

The preservation of the constitution from infraction is the President's highest duty. He is bound to discharge that duty, at whatever hazard of incurring the displeasure of those who may differ with him in opinion. He is bound to discharge it, as well by his obligations to the people who have clothed him with his exalted trust, as by his oath of office, which he may not disregard. Nor are the obligations of the President in any degree lessened by the prevalence of views different from his own in one or both houses of Congress. It is not alone hasty and inconsiderate legislation that he is required to check; but if at any time Congress shall, after appropriately full deliberation, resolve on measures which he deems subversive of the constitution, or of the vital interests of the country, it is his solemn duty to stand in the breach and resist them. The President is bound to approve or disapprove every bill which passes Congress and is presented to him for his signature. The constitution makes no provision for any contingency in which it be would. He has no election. In deciding upon any bill presented to him, he must exercise his own best judgment. If he cannot approve, the constitution commands him to return the bill to the House in which it originated, "with his objections; and if he fail to do this within ten days (Sundays excepted) it shall become a law without his signature. Right or wrong, he may be overruled by a vote of two-thirds of each House, and in that event, the bill becomes a law without his sanction. If his objections be not thus overruled, the subject is only postponed, and is referred to the States and the people for their consideration and decision. The President's power is negative merely, and not affirmative. He can enact no law. The only effect, therefore, of his withholding his approval of a bill passed by Congress, is to suffer the existing laws to remain unchanged, and the delay occasioned is only that required to enable the States and the people to consider and act upon the subject in the election of public agents for whom will carry out their wishes and instructions. Any attempt to coerce the President to yield his sanction to measures which he cannot approve, would be a violation of the spirit of the constitution, palpable and flagrant; and if successful, would break down the independence of the executive department, and make the President, elected by the people, and clothed by the constitution with power to defend their rights, the mere instrument of a majority of Congress. A surrender, on his part, of the powers with which the constitution has invested his office, would effect a practical alteration of that instrument without resorting to the prescribed process of amendment.

With the motive or considerations which may induce Congress to pass any bill, the President can have nothing to do. He must presume them to be as pure as his own, and look only to the practical effect of their measures when compared with the constitution or the public good.

But it has been urged by those who object to the exercise of this undoubted constitutional power, that it assails the representative principle and the capacity of the people to govern themselves; that there is greater safety in a numerous representative body than in the single Executive created by the constitution, and that the executive vote is a "one man power," despotic in its character. To expose the fallacy of this objection, it is only necessary to consider the frame and true character of our system. Ours is not a consolidated empire, but a confederated Union. The States, before the adoption of the constitution, were co-ordinate, co-equal, and separate independent sovereignties and by its adoption they did not lose that character. They clothed the federal government with certain powers, and reserved all others, including their own sovereignty to themselves. They guarded their own rights as States and the rights of the people, by the very limitations which they incorporated into the federal constitution, whereby the different departments of the general government were checks upon each other. That the majority should govern is a general principle, controverted by none; but they must govern according to the constitution, and not according to an undefined and unrestrained discretion, whereby they may oppress the minority.

The people of the United States are not blind to the fact that power may be temporarily misled, and that their representatives, legislative and executive, may be mistaken or influenced in their action by improper motives. They have, therefore, interposed between themselves and the laws which may be passed by their public agents, various representatives, such as assemblies, senates, and governors in their several States; a House of Representatives, a Senate, and a President of the United States. The people can by their own direct agency make no law; nor can the House of Representatives immediately elected by them, nor can the Senate; nor can both together, without the concurrence of the President, or a vote of two-thirds of both houses.

Happily for themselves, the people, in framing our admirable system of government, were conscious of the infirmities of their representatives, and, to guard against the dangers of legislation, they have fenced them around with checks, to guard against the effects of hasty action, of error, of combination, and of possible corruption. Error, selfishness, and faction, have often sought to rend asunder the web of our policy, and subject the government to the control of fanatic and sinister influences; but these efforts have only satisfied the people of the wisdom of the checks which they have imposed, and of the necessity of preserving them unimpaired.

The true theory of our system is not to govern by the acts or decisions of any one set of representatives. The constitution interposes checks upon all branches of the government, in order to give time for error to be corrected, and delusion to pass away; but if the people settle down into a firm conviction different from that of their representatives, they give effect to their opinions by changing their public servants. The checks which the people imposed upon their public servants in the adoption of the constitution, are the best evidence of their capacity for self-government. They know that the men whom they elect to public stations are of like infirmities and passions with themselves, and not to be trusted without being restricted by co-ordinate authorities and constitutional limitations. Who that has witnessed the legislation of Congress for the last thirty years, will say that he knows of no instance in which measures not demanded by the public good have been carried? Who will deny that in the States governments, by combinations of individuals and sections, in derogation of the general interest, banks have been chartered, systems of internal improvement adopted, and debts entailed upon the people, representing their growth, and impairing their energies for years to come?

After so much experience, it cannot be said that absolute unchecked power, is safe in the hands of any one set of representatives, or that the capacity of the people for self-government, which is admitted in its broadest extent, is a conclusive argument to prove the prudence, wisdom, and integrity of their representatives.

The people, by the constitution, have commanded the President as much as they have commanded the legislative branch of the government to execute their will. They have said to him in the constitution, which they require he shall take a solemn oath to support, that if Congress pass any bill which he cannot approve, "he shall return it to the House in which it originated, with his objections." In withholding from it his approval and signature, he is executing the will of the people, constitutionally expressed, as much as the Congress that passed it. No bill is presumed to be in accordance with the popular will until it shall have passed through all the branches of the government required by the constitution to make it a law. A bill which passed one House of Representatives may be rejected by the Senate; and so a bill passed by the Senate may be rejected by the House. In each case the respective houses exercise the veto power on the other.

Congress, and each house of Congress, hold under the constitution a check upon the President, and he, by the power of the qualified veto, a check upon Congress.—When the President recommends measures to Congress, he avows in the most solemn form his opinions, gives his voice in their favor, and pledges himself in advance to approve them. Congress have the benefit of his views for consideration, or has been influenced by improper or corrupt motives—or if from any other cause, Congress, or either house of Congress, shall differ with him in opinion, they may exercise their veto upon his recommendations, and reject them; and there is no appeal from their decision, but to the people at the ballot box. These are proper checks upon the Executive, wisely interposed by the constitution. None will be found to object to them, or to wish to see them removed. It is equally important that the constitutional checks of the Executive upon the legislative branch should be preserved. If it be said that the representatives in the popular branch of Congress are chosen directly by the people, it is answered, the people elect the President. If both houses represent the States and the people, so does the President. The President represents in the executive department the whole people of the United States, as each member of the legislative department represents portions of them.

The doctrine of restriction upon legislative and executive power, while a well settled public opinion is enabled within a reasonable time to accomplish its ends, has made our country what it is, and has opened to us a career of glory and happiness to which all other nations have been strangers. In the exercise of the power of the veto, the President is responsible not only to an enlightened public opinion, but to the people of the whole Union, who elected him, as the representatives in the legislative branches, who differ with him in opinion, are responsible to the people of particular States, or districts, who compose their respective constituencies. To deny to the President the exercise of this power, would be to repeal the provision of the constitution which confers it upon him. To expunge it, or modify it, would require the concurrence of the legislative will, is to complain of the constitution itself.

If the Presidential veto be objected to upon the ground that it checks and thwarts the public will, upon the same principle the equality of representation of the States in the Senate should be stricken out of the constitution. The vote of a Senator from Delaware has equal weight in deciding upon the most important measures with the vote of a Senator from New York; and yet the one represents a State containing, according to the existing apportionment of representatives in the House of Representatives, but one thirty-fourth part of the population of the other. By the constitutional composition of the Senate, a majority of that body from the smaller States represent less than one-fourth of the people of the Union. There are thirty States; and, under the existing apportionment of representatives, there are two hundred and thirty members in the House of Representatives. Sixteen of the smaller States are represented in that House by but fifty members; and yet the Senators from these States constitute a majority of the Senate. So that the President may recommend a measure to Congress, and it may receive the sanction and approval of more than three-fourths of the House of Representatives, and of all the Senators from the large States, containing more than three-fourths of the whole population of the United States, and yet the measure may be defeated by the votes of the Senators from the smaller States. None, it is presumed, can be found ready to change the organization of the Senate on this account, or to strike that body practically out of existence, by requiring that its action shall be conformed to the will of the more numerous branch.

Upon the same principle that the veto of the President should be practically abolished, the power of the Vice President to give a casting vote upon an equal division of the Senate, should be abolished also. The Vice President exercises the veto power as effectually by rejecting a bill by his casting vote, as the President does by refusing to approve and sign it. This power has been exercised by the Vice President in a few instances, the most important of which was the rejection of the bill to recharter the Bank of the United States in 1841. It may happen that a bill may be passed by a large majority of the House of Representatives, and may be supported by the Senators from the larger States, and by those from the smaller States; and yet none, it is presumed, are prepared to deny to him the exercise of this power under the constitution.

But it is, in point of fact, untrue that an act passed by Congress is conclusive evidence that it is an enactment of the popular will. A majority of the whole number elected to each house of Congress constitutes a quorum, and a majority of that quorum is competent to pass laws. It might happen that a quorum of the House of Representatives, consisting of a single majority, or two less than half of the whole number elected to that house, might pass a bill by a majority of a single vote, and in that case, a fraction more than one-fourth of the people of the United States would be represented by those who voted for it. It might happen that the same bill might be passed by a majority of one, of a quorum of the Senate composed of senators from the fifteen smaller States and a single senator from a sixteenth State; and if the senator voting for it happened to be from the eight of the smallest of these States, it would be passed by the votes of senators from States having but fourteen representatives in the House of Representatives, and containing less than one-sixteenth of the whole population of the United States. This extreme case is stated to illustrate the fact that the mere passage of a bill by Congress is no conclusive evidence that those who passed it represent the majority of the people of the United States, or truly reflect their will. If such an extreme case is not likely to happen, cases that approximate it are of frequent occurrence. It is believed that not a single law has been passed since the adoption of the constitution, upon which all the members elected to both houses have been present and voted. Many of the most important acts which have passed Congress have been carried by a close vote in both houses. Many instances of this might be given. Indeed, our experience proves that many of the most important acts of Congress are postponed to the last days, and often the last hours of a session, when they are disposed of in haste, and by houses but little exceeding the number necessary to form a quorum.

Besides, in most of the States the members of the House of Representatives are chosen by pluralities, and not by majorities of all the voters in their respective districts; and it may happen that a majority of that house may be returned, by a less aggregate vote of the people than that received by the minority.

If the principle insisted on be sound, then the constitution should be so changed that no bill should become a law unless it is voted for by members representing in each house a majority of the whole people of the United States. We must remodel our whole system, strike down and abolish not only the veto power, but the whole of the executive branch, but must strike out and abolish those lodged in the Senate also, and thus practically invest the whole power of the government in a majority of a single assembly—a majority uncontrolled and absolute, and which may become despotic. To conform to this doctrine of the right of majorities to rule, independent of the checks and limitations of the constitution, we must revolutionize our whole system. We must destroy the constitutional compact by which the several States agreed to form a United Union, and rush into consolidation, which must end in monarchy or despotism. No one advocates such a proposition; and yet, the doctrine maintained, if carried out, must lead to this result.

One great object of the constitution in conferring upon the President a qualified negative upon the legislation of Congress, was to protect minorities from injustice and oppression by majorities. The equality of their representation in the Senate, and the veto power on the President, are the constitutional guaranties which the smaller States have that their rights will be respected. Without these guaranties, all their interests would be at the mercy of majorities in Congress representing the larger States. To the smaller and weaker States, therefore, the preservation of this power, and its exercise upon proper occasions demanding it, is of vital importance.

They ratified the constitution, and entered into the Union, securing to themselves an equal representation with the larger States in the Senate; and they agreed to be bound by all laws passed by Congress upon the express condition, and none other, that they should be approved by the President, or passed, his objections to the contrary notwithstanding, by a vote of two-thirds of both houses. Upon this condition they have a right to insist, as a part of the compact to which they gave their assent.

A bill might be passed by Congress against the will of the whole people of a particular State, and against the votes of its senators and all its representatives. However prejudicial it might be to the interest of such State, it would be bound by it if the President should approve it, or it should be passed by a vote of two-thirds of both houses; but it has a right to demand that the President shall exercise his constitutional power, and arrest it, if his judgment is against it. If he surrender this power, or fail to exercise it in a case where he cannot approve, it would make his formal approval a mere mockery, and would be itself a violation of the constitution, and the dissenting State would become bound by a law which had not been passed according to the sanctions of the constitution.

The objection to the exercise of the veto power is founded upon the theory that the popular will, which, if carried out, would annihilate State sovereignty, and substitute for the present federal government a consolidation, directed by a supposed numerical majority. A revolution of the government would be silently effected, and the States would be subjected to laws to which they had never given their constitutional consent.

The Supreme Court of the United States is invested with the power to declare, and has declared acts of Congress passed with the concurrence of the two Houses of Congress and the approval of the President, to be unconstitutional and void: and yet none, it is presumed, can be found, who will be disposed to strip this highest judicial tribunal under the constitution of this acknowledged power—a power necessary alike to its independence and the rights of individuals.

For the same reason that the executive veto should according to the doctrines maintained, be rendered nugatory, and be practically expunged from the constitution, this power of the court should also be rendered nugatory and be expunged, because it restrains the legislative and executive will, and because the exercise of such a power by the court may be regarded as being in conflict with the capacity of the people to govern themselves. Indeed, there is more reason for striking the power of the court from the constitution than there is that of the qualified veto of the President; because the decision of the court is final and can never be reversed, even though both houses of Congress and the President should be unanimous in opposition to it; whereas the veto of the President may be overruled by a vote of two-thirds of both houses of Congress, or by the people at the polls.

It is obvious that to preserve the system established by the constitution, each of the co-ordinate branches of the government—the executive, legislative and judicial—must be left in the exercise of its appropriate powers. If the executive or the judicial branch be deprived of powers conferred upon either as checks upon the legislative, the preponderance of the latter will become disproportionate and absorbing, and the balance of the system for the accomplishment of the great objects for which they were established. Organized as they are by the constitution, they work together harmoniously for the public good. If the executive and the judiciary shall be deprived of the constitutional powers invested in them, and of their due proportions, the equilibrium of the system must be destroyed, and consolidation, with the most pernicious results, must ensue—a consolidation of unchecked, despotic power, as exercised by majorities of the legislative branch.

The executive, legislative, and judicial, each constitutes a separate co-ordinate department of the government, and each is independent of the others. In the performance of

The Maine Farmer; A Family Newspaper, Devoted to Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, Literature, General Intelligence, &c. &c.

The Muse.

THE DEVIL AND THE POTATOES.

AN IRISH BALLAD.

AIR—"*The Devil come fiddlin' through the town.*"

The Irish soil swarmed thick with toads
And reptiles holding revel,
But good St. Patrick drove them out,
And sore surprised the Devil.
"Ha! ha!" quoth he, "St. Patrick dear,
You think you're wondrous clever;
But I will send you plagues far worse than these,
And bother you forever."

The ripe grain grew in Irish fields
As thus they held their parley—
Each plain and river bank was fair
With corn, and rye, and barley;
St. Patrick thought no harm could come
To land thus favored highly,
But the Devil knew more tricks than he,
And took his measures slily.

He taught the people to distil
The corn to burning liquor;
It fired their eyes—it baked their brains—
It made their blood run thicker.
"Ha! ha!" said he, "St. Patrick dear,
You've cleared the land of vermin;
But if my plagues not worse than yours,
I leave you to determine."

St. Patrick wept for very shame
To see that frantic nation;
They drank, they swore, they fought, they slew,
For fun or desperation;
Their vices ripened into crimes—
The Devil laughed at *that* trick,
And clapped his hands in furious joy,
And sniggered at St. Patrick.

At last the Saint plucked up his heart,
And sought a man to aid him,
Found Father Matthew in his church
And labored to persuade him—
"Go forth," said he, "o'er all the land—
We'll catch the Devil winking—
And teach the people, for my sake,
The wickedness of drinking."

The Father did as he was bid—
His mission prospered rarely,
And all the world confessed with joy
He beat the Devil fairly.
But Satan laughed, and laughed outright—
"No doubt you're mighty clever,
But, faith, I know a better trick
To give you work forever.

"I've failed," thought he, "in way of drink,
The games not worth repeating—
The next shall be a surer move;
I'll curse them in their eating.
To make a nation bold and strong,
Industrious, nothing fearing,
The best of food is corn and beef—
I'll banish them from Erin.

"For food to please the idle taste—
For lazy loons to feed on—
To keep existence warm enough
For slattern wives to breed on—
To fill the land with pitchless swarms
At most prolific rate, oh—
I want no aid of beef or corn—
I'll do with the Potato."

He thought: he did: the evil spread,
The root found favor daily,
Where corn grew ripe, where mutton fed,
Its green stalks flourished gaily,
The peasant led a lazy life,
And each man with his neighbor
Went fighting feuds, and smoking pipes,
And hating sturdy labor.

The Devil laughed, as well he might,
To know his plot succeeding,
And poor St. Patrick wept and groaned,
And struck his bosom bleeding.
Let's hope he'll find the means ere long
To teach all Macs and great O's,
To cheat the Devil once for all,
And do without Potatoes.

The Story-Teller.

[From the Geneva Gazette.]

THEY CAN'T FOOL ME.

"Suspicion is a heavy armor, and
With its own weight impedes us more."

Billy Keene's peculiar boast was the utter impossibility of being *hoaxed*, or, in his more expressive phraseology, *fooled*. "They can't fool *me!*" was ever at his tongue's end, and so evident were his attempts to impress this fact upon all with whom he had anything to do, that he not unfrequently made a fool of *himself!*

Billy always made a point of expressing his disbelief of everything, however plausible, that reached his ears, which, by the way, were exceedingly easy of access, being not more than five feet from the ground, when their owner stood upon his feet.

Suspicion was always the "one idea" in his mind; he suspected everybody of some abortive design to gull him—from the most respectable friend, down to poor old Isaac, who had no more idea of a practical joke, than a polar bear might be expected to have of a baby-jumper.

Billy was not naturally hard-hearted, but he was so suspicious, that he turned twenty beggars from his door, where he relieved the necessities of one. In vain was the imploring eye raised, and the wasted hand extended to him for alms. The more piteous the story, the more evidently was it to him a hoax. "It all sounds very pitiful," he would exclaim, "but I've seen too much of the world—I've heard too much of such stuff—it's no use—you can't fool *me!*" and the wretched mendicant was compelled to seek in other quarters for the charity which believeth all things, which thinketh no evil.

Billy was once married, but it was a long time ere he was *fooled* into the state of "double blessedness," yet (as he himself has acknowledged) he often met with hair-breadth escapes, before he was finally hooked. We recollect his boasting once during his bachelorship, that Emma B., the only daughter of a neighboring merchant, was endeavoring to snare him into the matrimonial noose. He was making the boast to his particular friend, "other people don't notice it," said he, "but it is as plain as day to *me*. She thinks I don't see her plan! ha! ha! she can't fool me! Folks say her father will give her a cool ten thousand; humbug! If she's got the spoons why should she be so anxious to get into my good graces? that's the question! She's rather pretty, to be sure, but I wonder if she thinks that I believe her complexion and teeth *natural*. Guess she'll find I ain't *quite* so verdant as she thinks I am. No, *sir*, she can't fool me!"

Billy accompanied these words with a sly wink of peculiar expression, and gave no little cause of astonishment to his friend, who, for reasons best known to himself, was aware that the young lady was innocent of any such intention as Billy imputed to her. Billy was no less astonished the next day, at hearing of the marriage of his friend, early that morning with the identical Emma B., whose *ten* proved to be *fifteen* thousand, and whose personal charms were all natural, *malgre* Bill's suspicions. His friend found in Emma a lovely, devoted wife, while he, still wrapped in his "heavy armor," remained a bachelor.

But at length, as we have already told you, our hero was married. How any mortal of Eve managed to fool him into a union, is now, and must remain to us a profound mystery. We are certain, however, that he was married, for we find him at fifty, a widower, with an only daughter, a beautiful girl of eighteen.

Our worthy friend was proud of his daughter Mary; and well indeed he might be; for she had a sweet, lovely face, and a faultless form, and there was a world of mirthfulness and mischief in her sparkling black eyes.—Nor was it strange that others should love her beside her suspicious old father, who couldn't be fooled. There was a village rumor, (and we cannot deny that Madame Rumor, for once, told the truth,) of a warm attachment between Mary and Edward Seymour, a young merchant of the neighborhood, of whom everybody spoke in the highest terms of praise. All commended his good nature, frankness and ability; but as Billy always stemmed the current of public opinion, he had the penetration to perceive that these lauded virtues were *all* moonshine; that in their estimation of Seymour, the world were all wrong, and so he obstinately opposed the contemplated union. He was inexorable, and finally Mary, out of respect for him, yielded an apparent compliance to his wishes, and Seymour's visits and communications with her, were discontinued; and though she tried to appear as mirthful and happy as ever, yet her heart was ill at ease, and her imprisoned love would betray itself in her every look and action.

At length Edward, whose "hope never died," laid a plan of possessing himself of Mary's hand—in fact, the desperate and almost hopeless project of FOOLING old Billy Keene! Did he succeed? Have patience, reader, and you shall hear all.

One sultry July afternoon, a pale-faced young gentleman, whom Billy remembered to have seen in the street, but with whom he had no acquaintance, called at his house and requested to see him immediately on "important business." He was shown by Mary into the parlor, and our hero soon entered.

The pale-faced young gentleman first introduced himself, and then the object of his visit. "I have an unpleasant disclosure to make, Mr. Keene, which is of the greatest importance to you, and to the happiness of your daughter. You are of course aware that Edward Seymour has succeeded in making his friends believe that he has given up all hopes of marrying your daughter; this is merely to fool your suspicions, but I am confident that *you* have too much acuteness to believe it."

"Certainly," said Billy, highly gratified, "go on, he can't fool *me!*"

"Well, as I was going on to remark, my room at the Eagle, is next to Seymour's, and this morning I overheard him relating in high glee, to some one in his room, a plan for overreaching you, and eloping with Miss Mary! I detest eaves-dropping, but he was talking in a loud tone, and his door was a little way open—so it was forced upon me."

"Ha! ha!" roared Billy, "thinks he can fool me! the poor idiot! I should jest like to have him try it; how is he going to do it?"

"His plan," said the pale-face, "is deeply laid, but he is a fool to imagine that he can deceive *you* by any contrivance of his brain. He has employed a little black boy who brushes boots and does odd jobs at the Eagle, to call at your house after dark this evening, with directions to tell you that your sister Jemima has been taken with a dangerous attack of her old complaint, and wishes you to come to Pineville, to see her immediately; and while you are gone, he intends to take your daughter in a carriage, to Jones' tavern, on the river road; 'Squire Curtiss is to go with them to perform the ceremony, which will make them man and wife."

"A dutiful daughter, Mary is, indeed; the jade! to consent to such a deception on her poor old father; I'll lock the hussy up till she comes to her senses, and I'll horsewhip the nigger, and pull Seymour's nose—*I'll* teach 'em to try to fool *me*."

"Calm yourself, I entreat you, my dear sir," said the pale-faced young man, "reflect that such a course of proceeding would not only make the affair public, but it might seriously affect your daughter's reputation and happiness; to be sure she has been guilty of disrespect to you, but then she has undoubtedly been drawn into it by that vagabond Seymour. I know, sir, that you could not have been duped by two such green ones, even if I had not discovered their plan to you, but at the same time, (if I may presume to offer you my poor advice,) I think that you had better pretend to believe the yarn about your sister's illness, and, under cover of going to Pineville, proceed straight to 'Jones' Tavern,' wait for the runaways, break up their plan, cover them with confusion, and bring your daughter home. That would convince them forever, of what they ought to know already, that they might as well give in—that they can't fool *you!*"

"Capital idea!" said Billy, "much indebted to you, sir. You're right, they can't fool me! Good day."

"Good day, sir."

Billy indulged in an immoderate fit of laughter, when his pale-faced visiter was gone. "So Edward Seymour was going to fool me, was he?—ha! ha! I guess he'll find me a tough one, though; guess he can't be fooled so easy neither! and so deuced kind in him, too, to put me on my guard. He's a gentleman, and no mistake."

The afternoon, dark and cloudy, soon passed away, and after it came a black night, and a black boy. Billy heard the message of the latter with well counterfeited concern for Jemima's illness, and bidding old Isaac saddle his mare, was soon on the road to Jones'.

The night was black, and a drizzling rain chilled his bones, but still he muttered to himself, as he slapped his arms together, to accelerate the tardy circulation, "Cracky, how they'll look, when they find me waiting for them at Jones'! S'pose they think I'm half way to Pineville, by this time. Ha! ha! guess Jemima ain't *very* bad. They can't fool *me*."

"Why, bless *my* soul, Mr. Keene, what brought you here in this storm," said the burley Jones, as our worthy friend, drenched to the skin, reined the old mare up to the door. His only answer was, "you'll see something presently, Mr. Jones, that'll tickle you *some*, I calculate; they can't fool *me*."

The old mare was soon in the comfortable stable, while her owner, pacing the bar-room floor only uttered at intervals, "you'll see some sport presently, Mr. Jones; they can't fool *me*."

An hour passed away—another—eleven o'clock and no carriage!

"That pale-faced Jackass couldn't have been fooling me, could he?" thought the suspicious Billy. "No, by jingo! here they come. Now Mr. Jones, if you want to see some rare fun, just step to the door; they can't fool me."

The carriage rattled up to the door in furious haste; the driver reined in the reeking horses, and sprang from his seat; the steps were thrown down; Edward Seymour leaped out—assisted Mary to alight, and Squire Curtiss followed—Billy concealed himself behind the door, until the happy trio were in the sitting room; then with an air of triumph, he very coolly walked in, exclaiming, "Smart set, you be! thought you could fool *me*, did you? ha! ha! come, Miss Jack-a-napes, you'd better put your bonnet on again, sister Jemima ain't *dangerous*, and it's pretty late, so we'd better be getting toward home, ha! ha! fool *me*, will you?"

Mr. Keene looked around to see what effect his unexpected appearance had made; but no one seemed at all surprised; Mary did not as might have been expected, faint away on the occasion, but stepping forward, half weeping—half-smiling, she broke the awful pause with—"I'm ready to go this minute, pa; but first let me introduce to you my HUSBAND, Edward Seymour; we were married quietly at home, about an hour before we started. It was *so* kind in you to go away and leave us to make our own arrangements, that we thought it would be too bad to make you ride home on horseback in this storm, so *we* came to fetch *you* back, and offer you a seat in our carriage. Now you'll forgive us, won't you, pa?"

"I'm sold, give me your hand," said the crest-fallen Billy. "Give me your hand, Seymour. This is the first time I was ever fooled; and you are the first person who could ever fool me. God bless you, my son," said the old man, affected to tears, "you've done what no other living man ever could do—you've fairly fooled me, you've won her, and you're worthy of her."

The remainder of the scene, our pen, though made of the stoutest steel, is too feeble to describe. Old Jones, who had been a wondering spectator of the singular meeting, shook hands with Billy, and assured him that he had seen much more *fun* than he anticipated; and when the wedding party started for home, Mr. Keene recognised by the coach light, the pale-faced young man, transformed into a driver.

Our hero is still living, surrounded by a lovely group of grand children, and he still is firm in his own belief that he can't be fooled.

The last time we saw him he was listening to an account given by Seymour, on his return from the city, of that wonderful invention—the magnetic telegraph. "I wonder," said the old man, "if Ed thinks I suck all that yarn about writing and talking by lightning, or about sending a letter from New York to Buffalo in a *second!* No! nor in *twenty-four hours* either! It's no use, Ed, you may tell that to the women folks and the children, but you can't pull the wool over my eyes *again*; I'm too old—I've seen too much of the world: *you can't fool me!*"

JIM GIRTY'S BEEF STORY.

The following story was obtained by the editor from one of the crew. It took Jim Girty to show how to hook beef in Keel-boat times.

On a trip up the Tennessee river, Jim and his crew got out of meat. They could not think it fair play to be without meat in a cane country, where there were so many fat cattle.

So, as usual, they selected the best and fattest beef they could find; they obtained one that would weigh about 700 pounds. They dressed it neatly and took it on board.

About three hours afterwards, fourteen men came down to the boat with rifles, charging Jim with having stolen a beef.

Jim did not show fight. The crew paid no attention to what was going on—some were sitting on the running boards, with their feet dangling in the water—several were lying upon deck on blankets—every one seemed dull and stupid. Jim was seated on the bow of the boat, his head resting on his hand, when again assailed.

"I say, your men have been stealing the best beef in all these parts."

"There must be some mistake," said Jim, very quietly.

"You lie—your men were seen skinning it."

"There is strangers about there, may be," said Jim.

"Yes, yes, we know there is strangers here, on this very boat—they have the beef on board, and we will have it off."

"The boat is open, go look for yourselves, gentlemen, but you will find a mistake, certain—but satisfy yourselves, gentlemen, on that head."

"That we will, and in an instant order have the beef."

So at it they went, first having placed three men as a guard, to see that the crew did not play some trick. The others made a search by rolling and re-rolling everything in the boat, and still no beef was found. One fellow declared that they had left no place unsearched where the four quarters of a cat could be hid, let alone a big ox.

The same gravity was preserved by Jim; "he wished the gentlemen to be satisfied."

The fact was, while the crew were skinning the beef, one of them discovered a man watching them from behind a tree. They took no notice of it, but when they came to the boat, they told Jim they were caught.

He scratched his head a while, and then prepared for just such a visit as he received.

He placed the four quarters of the beef on the deck of the boat, and spread the hide over them; on this he spread all the blankets, and four men lay down on these blankets. Jim, as before stated, was on the bow of the boat, continually wishing "the gentlemen to be satisfied, but they would find a *mistake, sartain.*"

"Look about and be satisfied, gentlemen—look where you please, gentlemen, and be satisfied; but there is one thing I must ask *off* you, not to disturb them there sick men—we buried two yesterday, with the small pox, and them there four men are very sick—very sick indeed, gentlemen, and I must beg *off* you not to disturb them; it always is the worst thing you can do to disturb a sick man, especially if he be near his last; it kind of makes the blood fly to the head to be disturbed," &c. &c. But long before he had closed his speech he had no listeners.

If ever there were pale faces, fallen jaws, and ghastly looks, among a set of men, it was about that time and place—they moved off without speaking a word. Jim got clear of his visitors, and kept the beef.

[Western Boatman.

PERSEVERANCE. "Perseverance, Perseverance," said an old lady friend of ours to her "help," "it is the only way you can accomplish great things."

One day eight apple dumplings were sent down stairs and they all disappeared.

"Sally, where are those dumplings?"

"I managed to get through them, ma'am."

"Why, how on earth did you contrive to eat so many dumplings?"

"Persevering, ma'am," answered Sally.

An elderly chap, says the Picayune, speaking of his great knowledge of the western country, the other day, said he had known the Mississippi river ever since it was a small creek.

Why are Presidents like vagabonds? Because they are associated with *Vices*.

The following notice was lately stuck upon the end of a country meeting-house:—"Any person sticking bills against this church, will be prosecuted, according to law, or any other nuisance."

THE DISCOVERY.

BY THOMAS HOOD.

"It's a nasty evening," said Mr. Dornton, the stock-broker, as he settled himself in the last inside place of the last Fulham coach, driven by our friend Mat—an especial friend in need, be it remembered to the fair sex.

"I wouldn't be outside," said Mr. Jones, another stock-broker, "for a trifle."

"Nor as a speculation in opinions," said Mr. Parsons, another frequenter of the Alley.

"I wonder what Mat is waiting for," said Mr. Tidwell, "for we are full, inside and out."

Mr. Tidwell's doubt was soon solved—the coach-door opened, and Mat somewhat ostentatiously inquired, what indeed he knew very well:

"I believe every place is took up inside?"

"We are all here," answered Mr. Jones, on behalf of the usual compliment of old stagers.

"I told you so, Ma'am," said Mat to a female who stood beside him, but still leaving the door open to an invitation within. However, nobody spoke—on the contrary, I felt Mr. Hindmarsh, my next neighbor, dilating himself like the frog in the fable.

"I don't know what I shall do," exclaimed the woman; "I've nowhere to go to, and it's raining cats and dogs!"

"You'd better not hang about anyhow," said Mat; "for you may ketch your death—and I am the last coach—aint I, Mr. Jones?"

"To be sure you are," said Mr. Jones, rather impatiently; "shut the door."

"I told the lady the gentlemen couldn't make room for her," answered Mat, in a tone of apology. "I am very sorry, my dear," (turning to the female,) "you should have *my* seat, if you could hold the ribbons—but such a pretty one as you ought to have a coach of her own."

He began slowly closing the door.

"Stop, Mat, stop!" cried Mr. Dornton, and the door quickly unclosed again; "I can't give up my place, for I am expected home to dinner; but if the lady wouldn't object to sit on my knees—"

"Not the least in the world," answered Mat, eagerly, "you won't object, will you, Ma'am, for once in a way, with a married gentleman, and wet night, and the last coach on the road?"

"If I tho't I shouldn't incommode," said the lady, precipitately furling her umbrella, which she handed in to one gentleman, while she favored another with her muddy pattens, she then followed herself, Mat shutting the door behind her, in such a manner as to help her in. "I'm sure I'm much obliged for the favor," she said, looking round; "but which gentleman was so kind?"

"It was I who had the pleasure of proposing, Madam," said Mr. Dornton, and before he had pronounced the last words she was in his lap, with an assurance that she would sit as lightsome as she could. Both parties seemed very well pleased with the arrangement; but to judge according to the rules of Lavater, the rest of the company were but ill at ease. For my own part, I candidly confess I was equally out of humor with myself and the person who had set me such an example of gallantry. I who had read the lay of Troubadours—the awards of the "Courts of Love"—the Lives of the "preux Chevaliers"—the "History of Sir Charles Grandison"—to be outdone in courtesy to the sex by a married stock-broker! How I grudged him the honor she conferred upon him—how I envied his feelings!

I did not stand alone, I suspect, in this unjustifiable jealousy; Messrs. Jones, Hindmarsh, Tidwell, and Parsons, seemed equally disinclined to forgive the chivalrous act which had, as true knights, lowered all our crests, and blotted our escutcheons, and cut off our spurs. Many an unfair jibe was launched at the champion of the fair, and when he attempted to enter into conversation with the lady, he was interrupted by incessant questions of "What is stirring in the Alley?" "What is doing in Dutch?" "How are the Rentes?"

To all these questions Dornton incontinent returned business-like answers, according to the last Stock Exchange quotations; and was in the midst of an enumeration, that so-and-so was very firm, and so-and-so very low, and this rather brisk, and that getting up, and operations, and fluctuations, and so forth, when somebody inquired about Spanish bonds.

"They are looking up, *my dear*," answered Mr. Dornton, somewhat abstracted; and before the other stock-brokers were done tittering, the stage stopped. A bell was rung, and Mat stood before the open coach door; a staid female in a calash and clogs, with a lantern in her hand, came clattering pompously down a front garden.

"Is Susan Pegge come?" inquired a shrill voice.

"Yes, I be," replied the lady who had been dry-nursed from the town; "are you, Ma'am, No. 10, Grove place?"

"This is Mr. Dornton's," said the dignified woman in the hood, advancing her lantern—"and—mercy on us! you're in master's lap!"

A shout of laughter from five of the inside passengers corroborated the assertion, and like a literal cat out of the bag, the cidevant lady, forgetting her umbrella, and her pattens, bolted out of the coach, and with feline celerity, rushed up the garden and down the area of No. 10.

"Renounce the woman!" said Mr. Dornton, as he scuttled out of the stage—"Why the devil didn't she tell me she was the new cook?"

WHOA HUSH!—ADROIT THIEF.—A large sized, stout-built man, having the appearance of a teamster, called at one of the stores in this town, a few evenings since, and requested to look at some thick boots, which were shown him. After selecting a pair which suited his eye, he tried them on, and after making 'considerable fuss' by running to the door and crying out "whoa hush!" to his cattle, he finally concluded that they would not fit. He then called for some "stuff for trowsers," and completed the negociations for a pair. While the cloth was being measured and the trimmings being "put up," the belief that the boots would suit him seemed suddenly to strike him, and he again tried them on. He then proceeded to the door, and yelled out at top of his lungs, "Whoa hush! whoa hush!" and commenced running, and yelling at every ten steps, "whoa hush." The last the merchant, who supposed he had gone in pursuit of his restless cattle, heard from him, was the "whoa hush," faintly sounding in the distance. Whether the boots were possessed of some uncontrollable motive power, or the man was drawn upon the Telegraph wire, will probably be known when he comes back. The fellow had no cattle with him, and the "whoa hush" was most successfully used to allay suspicion of his trick. [Belfast Signal.

A man who is officious to serve you at first sight, should be regarded with caution.

If you mean to be happy when old, be temperate when you are young.

[From the Yankee Blade.]

THE DUTCHMAN AND THE BALLOON.

BY FALCONBRIDGE.

A great many curious and facetious things have been told of Æronauts, and their aerial carriages, 'cyclept balloons. A balloon making a descent on or near people who have never seen such a flying machine, unquestionably looks a *leetle* "supernatural-like," and, no doubt, makes their hair rise about as sudden as "breadstuffs" do semi-occasionally.

The Pennsylvanians are great on ballooning, that State having produced about a baker's dozen of aerial experimentalists, whose performances have been attended by no disasters, some pecuniary advantage—to the æronauts—and considerable addition to the general stock of useful science. Some years ago, a balloonist, named West, made several voyages to the upper regions from the town of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pa. About the same period, a Dutch farmer from the interior of New York State, Dutch as *sour krout*, took it into his head to pay a visit to some of his equally Dutch *frents*, in the aforesaid Lancaster County. Nick Morgan was the old farmer's name—simple and honest he was as the day is long—with not ten consecutive ideas beyond the daily routine of his farm; a railroad and locomotive he had never seen, and as to the matter of balloons, they were altogether such contrivances as he had never dreamed nor heard of. Mounted upon his old sorrel mare, with a few edibles, and a clean shirt or two in his saddle bags, old Nick started on his tour to Pennsylvania.

The *vrow* had preceded old Nick some few days in his visit, and he bustled along to join her.

Jogging along quietly and unsuspecting, not far from his journey's end, the old farmer and the old mare were crawling up the slope of a little hill, when a voice bawled out—

"Hurry on, old man! I want to pitch my grapnel into that hill side—hurry, hurry!"

The old sorrel pricked up her ears, and old Nick's eyes "pouched out" considerable, and he screwed and twisted them behind and before, right, left, and down below, yet nothing could he see, when still louder and more stentorian than before, came the same awful voice—

"Come, come, old codger, hang you, ride on, ride on, I say, or I'll pitch square on to you?"

The old man was bewildered, alarmed, horrified! He reigned up the old mare, and the poor old "critter," as terrified as her master, trembled like a leaf! Old Nick's eyes fairly hung out in every direction, but upwards—but not the first ghost of a thing could he see, save the hill on which he stood transfixed, and a few old stumps close by.

To these old stumps, West, the Æronaut—who was some hundreds of feet in the air, just over the Dutchman—wished to fasten his grapling iron and stop his balloon; as night was approaching, and no better spot could be easily found, there and then West was extremely anxious to alight. But the old fellow and his horse materially interfered with this arrangement. Time was everything just then, the Æronaut did not wish to hook up the traveler, nor lose his balloon, so, getting vexed at the Dutchman's delay, down West throws his grapnel, attached to many fathoms of strong cord, but which proving a *leetle* too short, just lit upon the hind quarters of the old sorrel, hooked the Dutchman's coat tail, and clamped the back part of the saddle tight as wax! At this critical juncture, a puff of wind bounced the balloon upwards, and lifted the mare clean and clear off her hind legs, and but for the girth parting, the poor quadruped, Dutchman and all, might have been carried bodily off! The old mare turned up her eye just as the girth of the saddle broke, and, espying the great balloon over head, she bolted as if the veritable "old Nick" himself was after her!

Poor Nick Morgan! his coat tail came out by the roots, and he and the saddle were hitched and hauled forty rods down the hill, where, with all the breath knocked out of his body, the poor old man lay stretched out, like a spread eagle.

"*There*, you infernal old donkey, you," bawled the Æronaut, as he was sailing away "*there* you are, cuss you, I knew it!"

Old Nick revived in time to hear this malediction, and get one glimpse of the flying machine, when up he bounced, and after his mare he went ten miles an hour!

On, on he splurged, until not two ounces of vital air filled his breathing apparatus; over the fence of his relative's grounds Nick flew, and up the lane he traveled, bustled into the house, foamed, fumed, and cut up such wondrous strange *didoes*, that his wife and friends believed he had gone stark mad!

Exhausted quite, the poor old fellow threw himself down upon the bed, and to all the combined efforts of his friends, the tongue of Nick Morgan refused to operate and unravel the mystery. At length his *vrow* essayed—

"Nicholas vat ish de matter mit you? Umph, speak, and tell your vife vot der matter ish, umph?"

No reply, but turning his head over, and looking at his wife and friends with all the subdued tenderness of a dying calf, the old fellow offered up a heavy doleful *groan*.

"Nicholas! mine tere husbant, vat ish de matter, umph?"

Another *look*, and another dreadful groan.

"Nicholas, Nicholas, vy don't ye tell *me* vats de matter?"

The old man rose up a little, stared around, caught hold of his wife's arm to satisfy himself that she *was* there, real flesh and blood, then, in a voice low and strong, betokening the deep solemnity of his feelings, he spake—

"I've seen—seen—I—I've seen him!"

The friends all huddled around, the *vrow* leaned over the bed, and, with a voice of extreme anxiety, asked—

"Seen *him*?—who vos it vot you see'd?"

"I—I've seen him!"

"Who?" cried all the friends.

"Der di-vil!"

"*Der di-vil!*" echo the whole group of listeners.

"Yaas! an ho! mine *got, vot a pig pag he carries on his shoulders!*"

CHICKEN FIXINGS. They tell a story of a man out west, who had a hair lip—upon which he performed an operation himself, by inserting into the opening a piece of chicken flesh—it adhered and filled up the space admirably. This was all well enough, until, in compliance with the prevailing fashion, he attempted to raise moustaches, when one side grew hair and the other feathers.

Two citizens were lately comparing notes upon the merits of their spouses. "Mine," said one, "would be a very good wife, if she was not so *talkative*." "*Talk at ee!*" exclaimed the other, "why, you are a happy fellow—my wife talks *morning, noon, and night!*"

A clear conscience cannot be bought with money, but is often sold for it.

NEW CROCKERY & GLASS WARE,
Per Ship John Baring, from Liverpool.

J. D. PIERCE has just received a complete assortment of Crockery, Glass and China Ware, of his own importation, direct from the English Manufacturers, comprising all the new shapes & patterns, among which may be found

White Imperial Stone Ware,

Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets, Coffees, Pitchers, &c. of superior quality; FLOWING BLUE WARE of new and beautiful patterns; Dinner, Tea, Coffee and Toilet sets, Pitchers, Bowls, Mugs, &c.; BLUE PRINTED WARE—Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets, Coffees, Pitchers, Mugs, Bowls, &c.; FRENCH AND ENGLISH CHINA—Yellow Stone, Dipt, Edged and C. C. Ware in all the usual variety; RICH CUT AND PRESSED GLASS WARE—Tumblers, Lamps, Goblets, Lemonades, Salts, Sugars, Creams, Bowls, Pitchers, Entry Lamps and Lanterns.

Britannia Tea and Coffee Pots, Ivory handled and common Knives & Forks, Tea Trays, Castors, Plated Spoons, Solar Lamps, &c.

Also—A large stock of rich and low priced FURNITURE; American Geese Feathers; Mattresses; Looking Glasses, &c.

Purchasers are respectfully invited to examine this Stock; and all articles will be sold at the lowest prices.

No. 4, Union Block, Water Street, Augusta.

July 24, 1848. tf0

LIFE INSURANCE!

THE New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, established in Boston, with a capital stock of $100,000, in their last annual report, in December last, made the following exhibit, viz:

Whole No. of policies issued,	1557	
Whole amount of receipts of last year,		$86,743 27
" " expenditures, including am't paid out for losses, ($17,900 00,) and interest on capital stock,		22,717 09
Accumulation during yr. ending Nov. 30, 1847,		$66,026 18
" previous to Nov. 30, 1847,		104,313 67
Total,		$170,339 85

Such is the actual condition of the Company, presenting very strong inducements to others to become members and participate proportionably in the success which has already attended it, as well as in its favorable prospects for the future.

Applications may be made to

BENJ. A. G. FULLER, *Agent.*

Augusta, Jan. 1, 1848. 22

To the Honorable D. WILLIAMS, Judge of the Court of Probate, within and for the County of Kennebec.

THE undersigned, Guardian of Malvina Blanchard and Increase E. Blanchard of Augusta, minors, and children of Moses Blanchard, late of Rome, deceased, represents the said minors are seized and possessed of certain real estate in Rome, viz: the homestead farm of said deceased, containing twenty-five acres, more or less, with the buildings thereon—and that it will be for the benefit of said minors that the same should be sold and the proceeds put out at interest. She further represents that an advantageous offer has been made for said estate—the interest of all persons concerned will be best promoted by an immediate acceptance of the same. She therefore prays that she may be authorized to accept said offer, and sell said property on such terms as to your honor shall seem fit, to the person making said offer, without public notice.

ELIZA BLANCHARD.

KENNEBEC, ss.—*At a Court of Probate, in Augusta, on the 1st Monday of Dec.*, 1848.

On the Petition aforesaid, *Ordered*, That notice be given by publishing a copy of this petition, with this order thereon, three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed in Augusta, that all persons interested may attend on the last Monday of Dec. inst., at the Court of Probate then to be holden in Augusta, and show cause, if any, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted. Such notice to be given before said Court.

D. WILLIAMS, *Judge.*

Attest—F. DAVIS, *Register.*
Copy of the petition and order thereon.
Attest—F. DAVIS, *Register.* 49

KENNEBEC, SS.—At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the last Monday of November, A. D. 1848.

ASA AXTELL, JR., Guardian of NANCY, JANE, and RUTH B. YEATON, of Belgrade, in said County, minors, having presented his 2d account of Guardianship of said minors for allowance:

ORDERED, That the said Guardian give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said County, on the last Monday of Dec. next, at ten o'clock, in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed. D. WILLIAMS, *Judge.*

Copy. Attest—F. DAVIS, *Register.* 48

KENNEBEC, SS.—*At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the last Monday of November, A. D. 1848.*

JOSEPH W. PATTERSON, Executor of the last Will and Testament of FOXWELL F. PETTINGILL, late of Augusta, in said county, deceased, having presented his account of administration of the Estate of said deceased for allowance:

ORDERED, That the said Executor give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said county, on the last Monday of Dec. next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed. D. WILLIAMS, *Judge.*

Copy. Attest—F. DAVIS, *Register.* 48

KENNEBEC, SS.—*To the heirs at law and all others interested in the Estate of* SOLOMON ESTY, *late of Augusta, in said County, deceased, testate:* GREETING.

WHEREAS, a certain instrument, purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, has been presented to me for Probate by DOLLY ESTY, the Executrix therein named—

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be holden at Augusta, on the last Monday of December, 1848, to show cause, if any you have, against the same.

In Probate Court, at Augusta, on the last Monday of November, 1848. D. WILLIAMS, *Judge.*

Copy. Attest—F. DAVIS, *Register.* 48

KENNEBEC, SS.—At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the last Monday of November, A. D. 1848.

BETSEY CARR, widow of STEPHEN CARR, late of Vienna, in said county, deceased, having presented her application for dower in the real, and an allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased:

ORDERED, That the said widow give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said county, on the last Monday of Dec. next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed. D. WILLIAMS, *Judge.*

Copy. Attest—F. DAVIS, *Register.* 48

KENNEBEC, SS.—*At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the last Monday of November, A. D.* 1848.

JOHN F. BAILEY, Guardian of JOHN RUSSELL, of Sidney, in said county, non compos, having presented his account of guardianship of said non compos:

ORDERED, That the said Guardian give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said County, on the last Monday of December next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

D. WILLIAMS, *Judge.*

Copy. Attest—F. DAVIS, *Register.* 48

KENNEBEC, SS.—At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the last Monday of November, A. D. 1848.

FRANCIS FULLER, Guardian of Jos. CUMMINGS, of Winthrop, in said County, non compos, having presented his 3d account of Guardianship of said non compos for allowance:

ORDERED, That the said Guardian give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said County, on the last Monday of December next, at ten of the clock, in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed. D. WILLIAMS, *Judge.*

Copy. Attest—F. DAVIS, *Register.* 48

KENNEBEC, SS.—At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the last Monday of November, A. D. 1848.

THOMAS ROLLINS, Guardian of Ruth E., Calvin R., George, Mary, and John Weaver, minors, and children of Nicholas Weaver, late of Belgrade, in said county, deceased, having presented his 2d account of Guardianship of said minors for allowance:

ORDERED, That the said Guardian give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said county, on the last Monday of Dec. inst., at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed. D. WILLIAMS, *Judge.*

Copy. Attest—F. DAVIS, *Register.* 49

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber has been duly appointed Administratrix on the estate of ENOCH C. FARNHAM, late of Albion, in the county of Kennebec, deceased, intestate, and has undertaken that trust by giving bond as the law directs: All persons, therefore, having demands against the Estate of said deceased are desired to exhibit the same for settlement; and all indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to

MARY J. FARNHAM.

November 6, 1848. 49

DR. WARREN'S
Sarsaparilla, Tomato & Wild Cherry Physical Bitters, at 50 cents per Bottle.

SARSAPARILLA, Tomato and Wild Cherry Bitters have now become a standard medicine, universally approved by physicians as a safe, speedy and effectual remedy for Scrofulous, Mercurial, and Cutaneous Diseases; Jaundice, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Bilious Disorders, Liver Complaints, Costiveness, Weak and Sore Stomach, Ulcers and Running Sores, Swelling of the Limbs, Pain in the Bones, Tumors in the Throat, Rheumatic Affections, Salt Rheum, Erysipelas, bad Humors, Eruptions on the Face or Body, Cancerous Sores, King's Evil, Chronic Catarrh, Languor, Debility, Headache, Dizziness, Sallow Complexion, and all those disorders which arise from the abuse of Mercury, or from an impure taint in the blood, no matter how acquired.

The extract here presented is prepared after directions given by the celebrated Dr. Warren, whose name it bears, and will be found superior to any preparation of the kind now in use. It is highly concentrated, entirely vegetable, and very finely flavored to the ta